THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 02, 2025 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress
twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

CITY OF NAWABS GOES GLOBAL AS UNESCO HIGH-FIVES ITS CUISINE

Lucknow has been inducted into UNESCO's Creative Cities Network under the 'Gastronomy' category, a testimony of its culinary heritage

LUCKNOW IS A HAVEN FOR FOOD, SAYS U.N.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay designated 58 cities as new members of the CCN "for their commitment to championing creativity as a driver of sustainable urban development". The UN in India in a post on X said, "From mouth-watering Galouti Kabab to Awadhi Biryani, desserts like Makhan Malai and so much more — Lucknow is a haven for food..."

MAKE A TRIP FOR ITS UNIQUENESS: PM MODI

- Lucknow isn't just about its kebabs. If the ever-inviting, rather demure, creamy "Malai Gilori" is an all-time favourite, the mouth-watering "paani puri" or "paani ke batashe", are favourites too
- "I am glad UNESCO recognised this aspect of Lucknow. I call upon people to visit it to discover its uniqueness," PM Modi said on X | P10

408

CITIES IN THE WORLD ARE PART OF UNESCO'S CREATIVE CITIES NETWORK

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Women among 9 people killed in AP temple crush

No police permission sought for the event

USHA PERI @ Srikakulam

NINE devotees, eight of them women and a 13-year-old boy, died in a stampede at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Kasibugga, Srikakulam district, on Saturday. The crush occurred when a large number of people thronged the temple for darshan on the first Ekadasi of Karthika Masam, considered auspicious. Two persons are reportedly in a critical condition, while about 15 others suffered minor injuries. All the victims hailed from nearby villages and mandals.

Rescue efforts on after the stampede at the temple in Kasibugga | **EXPRESS**

Srikakulam district Superintendent of Police KV Maheswara Reddy said the temple was built recently on a private land without proper permissions. "The structure, including the gate and stairway, was completed only 3-4 months ago. The crowd tried to enter through an exit gate with a seven-foot drop. The grill at the spot was weak, and collapsed due to the pressure, leading to the fall of several devotees," he explained.

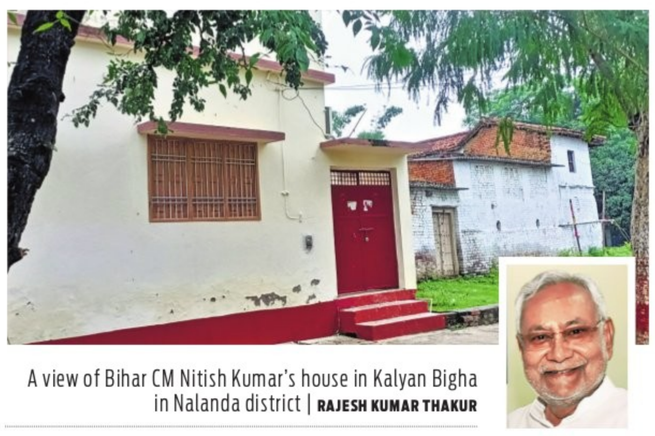
No permission was sought from local police for crowd management. "A case has been registered against the temple owner, Hari Mukunda Panda, under various sections of culpable homicide," the SP said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy, and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to each of the families of the deceased, and ₹50,000 to those injured in the incident. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure immediate medical aid and relief.

The state government said the temple was not under the control of the endowments department. Harimukund Panda acknowledged that they were unprepared for the surge in devotees. "We rarely get more than a 1,000 even on special days. Today, several thousands arrived for darshan. We did not anticipate the crowd, and did not alert the police," he admitted.

Probe committee

A three-member probe panel had been constituted. It comprises Tekkali RDO M Krishnamurthy, ASP KV Ramana, and Endowments Assistant Commissioner Prasad Patnaik



A view of Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's house in Kalyan Bigha in Nalanda district | **RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR**

Former CM Lalu Prasad Yadav's ancestral home in Fulwaria in Gopalganj | **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

2005 fallout on Lalu, Nitish villages

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR
@ Nalanda/Gopalganj

IN Bihar's political heartland, two villages—Kalyan Bigha in Nalanda and Fulwaria in Gopalganj — stand as contrasting portraits of their most illustrious sons, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav.

Kalyan Bigha, Nitish Kumar's ancestral village, mirrors the CM's focus on development and order. The once-sleepy hamlet now gleams with smooth roads, solar-lit lanes, and uninterrupted electricity. On the spectrum's far-end, former CM Lalu Prasad Yadav's Fulwaria reflects the fading imprint of a political era long past. Once popularly referred to as a "mini-secretariat" during the RJD's rule from 1990 to 2005, Fulwaria is now lost in the tedious warp of time, with whatever once built now slowly withering away.

DECODE BIHAR POLL DECIDE

In Kalyan Bigha, where Nitish Kumar is affectionately called as "Munna", villagers speak with pride and gratitude. "Our Munna has made this village immortal with development works," said 70-year-old Girendra Singh, sitting under a tree near the market that's buzzing with evening chatter. The village has round-the-clock electricity, high speed internet, a referral hospital, a high school upgraded to the 10+2 level, an ITI, a shooting range and a spacious guest house.

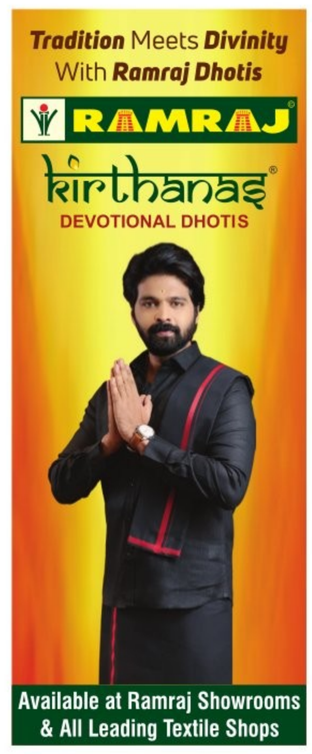
Nitish's ancestral double-storey home remains locked for most of the year, except during his visits to the Smriti-sthal, a memorial built in memory of his parents and wife. Nearby, the restored Devi-sthal — where he reportedly prays before major political moves — serves as the village's spiritual heart.

Every corner echoes the villagers' affection for both Nitish and his son, Nishant Kumar. Their only worry— why the NDA hasn't formally projected Nitish again as chief ministerial face.

About 200 km away, in Fulwaria, the once-busy helipad is in ruin, the railway station silent, and battered link roads carry the scars of neglect. "*Samay ka chakra hai. Jo kal chamakta tha aaj murjha raha hai* (It's the wheel of time. What once used to shine has now lost its glitter)," says Parmeshwari Singh, watching cattle graze where choppers once landed.

Fulwaria's old hospital still functions but in a ramshackle state. Lalu Yadav's two-storey ancestral home, with a statue of his mother inside, serves as a reminder of his past glory.

Villagers hope for a revival under Tejashwi Yadav. "When he comes to power, Fulwaria will bloom again," says Nityanand, a starry-eyed youth.



HOSABALE SLAMS KHARGE'S RSS BAN REMARKS

RSS Gen Secy says society has accepted the organisation as one that works for national unity, security and culture | P10

Actors Prakash Raj and Vijayalakshmi Singh receive the Rajyotsava award in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar and Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi during the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations in Bengaluru on Saturday | **EXPRESS**

5 STABBED DURING RALLY IN BELAGAVI

Belagavi: A group of miscreants stabbed five people during a festive tableau procession during Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations in Belagavi on Saturday. The miscreants suddenly stormed into the crowd near Lakshmi Complex and began attacking people with knives. Panic spread through the area as the injured collapsed amid the chaos | P4

Collective security key to sovereignty, says Rajnath

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

DEFENCE Minister **Rajnath Singh** on Friday reaffirmed India's stance in the Indo-Pacific, stressing that its emphasis on the "rule of law" does not target any country but seeks to protect regional interests collectively.

Speaking at the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting — Plus (12th ADMM-Plus) meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Singh underscored that India's advocacy of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and freedom of navigation reflects a commitment to inclusivity, openness, and stability in the region.

"India's emphasis on the rule of law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its advocacy for freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific, are not directed against any country but are meant to safeguard the collective interests of all regional stakeholders," said Singh on Saturday.

Singh asserted that India's strategic engagement with ASEAN is not transactional but long-term & principle-driven, and it rests on a shared belief that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive, and free from coercion. "India is ready to deepen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest to promote dialogue, and to strengthen mechanisms that ensure peace and stability."

Woman slits throats of two daughters, kills self in Mys dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

A 25-year-old woman allegedly killed her two daughters -- including an eight-day-old infant -- before ending her own life in Bettadapura village of Periyapatna taluk on Saturday.

The police said that the woman, identified as Arabia Banu, slit the throats of her two-year-old daughter Anam Fathima and her newborn daughter before taking her own life in a similar manner. The incident occurred around 10 am at her parents' house in the Muslim Block area of the village.

Banu was married to Masabir of Arehalli village in the same taluk, around three years ago. Masabir, who works at a private mall in Bengaluru, had left his wife and children at her parents' home after the recent delivery so that they could be cared for. Their older daughter, Fathima, was physically challenged, and their second child was born just eight days ago.

Preliminary investigation suggests that Banu was reportedly distressed over her elder child's disability and the birth of another girl. The police clarified that there was no evidence of harassment or domestic pressure from her husband or in-laws regarding the birth of girls.

ASP Mallik said, "Their first child was born with a disability, which caused some emotional strain in the family. When she became pregnant again, Banu returned to her parental home and gave birth to another girl. It is suspected that she was deeply upset over the situation."

App to book appointments with mins at Soudhas soon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN the coming days, getting an appointment with the chief minister, ministers or officials whose offices are located in Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha will just be a fingertip away. The state government is set to develop a mobile application that will help people check the availability of ministers and officials on any particular day.

The two Soudhas house most of the government departments and offices, and have 600 rooms. Speaker UT Khader told *TNIE* that a dedicated mobile application is being developed that will have details of offices at the Soudhas to help visitors. "People can check room numbers or floors of any minister or official they want to meet. The Soudhas are vast and they can be confusing. The app will work like a navigator and will be launched soon," he added.

Khader said they are trying to design the app in such a way that it can be used to book appointments. The concept of a mobile application for a government building that houses important offices, including those of CM and ministers, is said to be first of its kind in the country.

He said it is possible to include details like the availability of a minister or official on a particular day. "If ministers or officials are travelling, those details can be uploaded and people coming from different places can plan their visit accordingly." P6

CM says Centre ignoring Kannada, promoting only Hindi & Sanskrit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah again raised the issue of lack of funds from the central government, and this time to develop Kannada. "The central government has been giving Karnataka stepmotherly treatment over the past few years. The state contributes Rs 4.5 lakh crore to the Centre in taxes, but receives a low share of grants. The Centre comes up with different policies and schemes to impose Hindi on us, and has been giving grants to develop only Hindi and Sanskrit."

He was addressing teachers, students and education department officials on Kannada Rajyotsava Day at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. "The Centre is ignoring all other languages, including Kannada. Despite Kannada being recognised as a classical language, the Centre is not giving sufficient grants to develop it. Kannada has not received enough financial and institutional support like other languages," he said.

He stressed that mother tongue should be the medium of instruction in schools. "Children read, write, think and dream in their mother tongue. However, only English and Hindi are promoted, hindering the progress of learning among children," Siddaramaiah said. CONTINUED ON P4

ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Harmanpreet & Co set to take a shot at immortality

Captains Harmanpreet Kaur and Laura Wolvaardt with Worl Cup trophy | **PTI**

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

IT doesn't get any bigger than this — India team is set for the final of the home ICC Women's Cricket World Cup here on Sunday. Their final obstacle before getting their hands on their first-ever ICC Trophy are South Africa — a team and country chasing a history of their own.

One just needed to stroll along the roads around the DY Patil Stadium to understand what the final meant to the teams. With more than 24 hours to go, thousands of fans had flocked the gates and lanes of the venue, trying their luck to get tickets for the game. The official ticketing partner had gone from 'coming soon' to 'event closed' overnight, leaving the fans disappointed. Excitement was palpable as myriad emotions gripped the fans.

ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2025

The pressure of 'availability of tickets' did not spare the India captain either. Though it was an avoidable nuisance for players, Harmanpreet Kaur understood the gravity of it. She rather cheekily welcomed it. "I think it's good that not only for cricket on the field but there is pressure for tickets also," she said during the press conference on Saturday. This daily has reported how ticket prices on resaling websites have shot the roof. As much as Kaur had an off-the-cuff reply, the enormity of the occasion had not gone past her. Leading the country in a home World Cup for first time, she knew how crucial the final will be for women's cricket.

Despite the high points of the 2005, 2017 and 2020 World Cup finals (two ODIs and one T20), the silverware has remained elusive. With Sunday offering the chance to reshape history, it is understandable why Kaur called the home WC final the biggest thing in their lives. "We know how it feels to lose, but we are really looking forward to seeing how it feels after we win. Hopefully, this day tomorrow (Sunday) will be special for us," said Kaur. If they manage to win, they will change the course of women's cricket in India forever. P13

LIVE 3 PM ON JIO/HOTSTAR; STAR SPORTS NETWORKS

WITH THIS ISSUE
As spaces shrink and eco-awareness rises, urban Indians are embracing minimalist design
PLUS 12 PAGES
MAGAZINE

ALMANAC TODAY

Sunday: 02.11.2025 **Year:** Vishwavasu **Ayana:** Dakhsinayana
Ritu: Sharad **Masa:** Karthika **Paksha:** Sukla **Tithi:** Dwadasi 1.02 am
Nakshatra: Purvabhadra 1.43 pm **Moon in** Meena Rashi **Rahukaala:** 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm **Yamaganda:** 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER

MIN 17°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST Overcast

Sunrise 06.13 am
Sunset 05.52 pm
Moonrise 03.19 pm
Moonset 02.49 am

The audience cheers the ramp walkers

Trying their hands at painting diyas

A skit by Yvonne Pereira (L) and Belinda Fernandez

A musical session

HEY, a group of neighbours from Cooke Town, started Greys Matter for elders in their families to lead a meaningful life in their twilight years

HELPING THEM RELIVE GOLDEN MEMORIES!

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

DRAPED in sarees and adorned with traditional jewellery, these women in their 80s, but 18 at heart, walked down the ramp, receiving a loud applause from the audience.

Behind this moment of joy stands Greys Matter, an initiative by Hearts Ever Young (HEY), a group of 17 neighbours from Cooke Town. HEY organised this event to bring together all elder members in the group. What began as a small gathering of nine elderly women has now grown into a close-knit circle of nearly 30 members, meeting every month to share love, grief and friendship.

On October 18, the group members organised the event for their elders. With ramp walks, dances to popular songs of the 60s and skits, each of them got excited with every performance that reminded them of the golden moments they had in the past.

"It's been so long since I've been on stage and it feels very good," said Belinda Fernandez, a member of Greys Matter.

It all started when members of HEY, who have been friends for a long time, decided to meet one day. This led to their frequent meetings. "We didn't just want to meet for a potluck dinner," said Regina Thomas, one of the founders.

"We wanted to do something meaningful, something for older adults who are often ignored or misunderstood. Thus, the idea of Greys Matter came up," she said.

The first meeting took place with just nine elderly women. Today, that small circle has grown into a community of nearly 30 members, all meeting once a month or coming together to celebrate birthdays, festivals and other special occasions or simply be there for one another.

Each session is unique, from yoga and sing-alongs to art, games and discussions on health, safety and wellbeing. Experts are invited to deliver lectures on topics such as health and fitness. The group members also gather just to dance, play housie or other games or go for picnics and outings.

"We look forward to our once-a-month meeting like children waiting for a school picnic. We giggle, laugh loud, make fun of each other and become childish, a reminder that we still have so much to give," said a member of Greys Matter. "They love being out in the open. At every picnic, there's food, laughter and an exchange of stories. You see them come alive again," said Lata Jacob, a member of HEY.

The connections, however, go deeper than these celebrations. Greys Matter has become a circle of empathy, a place where elders find themselves seen and understood for who they truly are. Some of them are in their late 80s, even 90s, and they see the organisation as a reason to be hopeful. "I've been here for so many years, but never had a group that connected me this much. At this age of almost 80, to find a group like this feels like a blessing. It fills a void that loneliness leaves behind," said Yvonne Pereira of Greys Matter.

"One of our members woke up at 5 am asking her granddaughter to help her with lipstick before the event," laughs Meera Prasad, a member of HEY. "That's how much it means to them," she said.

Over a period of time, the members formed smaller circles such as scrabble club, walking partners or just friends who call each other every evening. A WhatsApp group keeps everyone connected, filled with pictures, jokes, arguments and affection.

"It's like an extended family," said Regina. "They may have lost their partners or live away from their children, but here, they have each other," she added.

It's not just love and happiness that they share, but also grief, something they were never taught to deal with and even in moments of loss, the group stands strong. "When a member passed away some time ago, they mourned together, observing silence and sharing memories," said Meera.

Greys Matter is getting stronger with each passing day not as a formal organisation, but as a living, breathing community of care, proving that ageing doesn't mean slowing down. It means living fully, surrounded by love and laughter.

Driven by care, compassion and the simple belief that life doesn't stop at 75, Greys Matter has become much more than a club. It's a home away from home, a reminder that every wrinkle carries a story, and a heart that has been pounding through decades which still hopes to feel special and loved.

Celine Elias and Asha Jacob walk the ramp

> We wanted to do something meaningful, something for older adults who are often ignored or misunderstood. Thus, the idea of Greys Matter came up
>
> Regina Thomas, one of the founders of Greys Matter

Officials repair broken drain, clean SWD in HBR Layout

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

JUST days after The New Indian Express reported about HBR and Kammanahalli residents facing inconvenience because of the ongoing whitetopping and drain work, and expressing fear that their areas would be flooded as asphalt and other waste material have been dumped into the side drains by workers, engineers from the Greater Bengaluru Authority fixed the side drains and cleaned the storm water drain on Thursday and Friday.

The news report on October 28 -- 'Concrete troubles HBR, Kammanahalli residents' -- highlighted that residents, mostly senior citizens, have been suffering for the last one-and-a-half years because of the delayed whitetopping work.

Before

Residents stated that the side drains were dug up to lay water lines, but were never restored.

After

EXPRESS IMPACT

Many of them, especially senior citizens, found it difficult to move in and out of their homes. Also, the major drain connecting Kacharakanahalli Lake was clogged as concrete and other materials entered it.

Residents of HBR feared that flash floods could impact 400 homes as the drain was blocked. After the TNIE report highlighted their concerns, the GBA deployed workers, fixed the drain, and cleaned the SWD on Thursday and Friday. They are now starting work on Nehru Street in Kammanahalli.

"We would like to thank the media for their support, as the issue that had remained unresolved for months was addressed. Labourers are now working on side drains and SWD," said Dayalu Arasappa, HBR Resident Welfare Association.

GBA fails to meet CM's Oct 31 deadline on filling potholes, blames rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

OFFICIALS of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have failed to meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's deadline to fill potholes across the city by October 31.

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao, who confirmed this on Saturday, said the pothole-filling work could not be completed last month because of rain.

"Due to continuous rain and deployment of GBA employees for the socio-economic and educational survey, the pothole-filling work could be completed before the deadline. Efforts will be made to complete it in the next four days," Rao said.

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar had stated that Rs 750 crore will be released to complete the pothole-filling work by November. But a day after his announcement, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah held a presser and warned all engineers and commissioners of the corporations under GBA to complete the pothole-filling work by October 31.

Meanwhile, BJP leaders and workers staged protests across the city against the delay in filling potholes and completion of work on other infrastructure projects. Former minister and Mahalakshmi Layout MLA K Gopalaiah, who organised a protest at Kanteerava Studio, lashed out at the Congress government for remaining mute to the city's infrastructure problems.

"After the protest, potholes in my assembly constituency were fixed," Gopalaiah said.

Meanwhile, senior engineers of Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) under Bengaluru East City Corporation said that a truckload of aggregate wet mix was sent back by residents of Medahalli in KR Puram for not fulfilling their demand related to Transferable Development Rights (TDR).

Work on a 1.2 km stretch could not be completed because of their protest, the engineers said.

EXPRESS READ

Ready to form a panel under Ashoka on tunnel road: DCM

Bengaluru: Responding to opposition leader R Ashoka's statement that BJP leaders would protest against the Tunnel Road Project to save Lalbagh, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said he is ready to form a committee on the tunnel road under the leadership of Ashoka. "There is no need for Ashoka to protest because he is also a legislator from Bengaluru and he has responsibility towards citizens. Let the committee give suggestions and directions to the government. We will include any member they recommend. Let's all work together," he told reporters at Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday. Shivakumar said he personally inspected the entry and exit points at Lalbagh on Friday night. "We are evaluating alternative plans, there is no need to worry," he added. **ENS**

23rd Chitra Santhe to be held on Jan 4

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, in collaboration with the state government, will organise the 23rd edition of Chitra Santhe on January 4. The annual art fair will be held along Kumarakrupa Road and on the Chitrakala Parishath campus. Online registrations for artists will open on November 6, 2025. Those interested can apply through the official portal or call: 90363 30928. **ENS**

CCTVs to keep eye on garbage dumping

Warning litterbugs of consequences, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said CCTV cameras are being installed in the city to monitor garbage dumping in public places. Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, he said, "We have installed many CCTV cameras already. Litterbugs are being identified and the garbage they dumped on the streets is being dumped back at their doorstep as a lesson. We are also levying fines on litterers."
Meanwhile, he said that many cities, including Hyderabad, are using new asphalting technologies to lay roads which last 10 years. "We are discussing similar technologies for Bengaluru too. The contractors have asked for larger contracts in view of machine costs and we are reviewing this as well," he said. **ENS**

Twin-tower project faces hurdle, no takers despite three tenders

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru:

THE Karnataka government is likely to drop its ambitious project of constructing 50-storeyed twin towers in Majestic area in Bengaluru. The mega project, with a cost estimation of over Rs 1500 crore, has no takers despite the government calling repeated tenders.

At present, government offices are scattered across Bengaluru, including the Multi-Storeyed Building next to Vikasa Soudha, BMTC terminus in Shanthinagar, Kendriya Sadan in Koramangala, VV Towers and other places. When BS Yediyurappa was chief minister in 2020, it was proposed to accommodate all offices in one place. A land parcel of 8.8 acres next to Anand Rao Circle flyover in Gandhinagar (Majestic) was identified. During his budget speech, Yediyurappa had announced the twin-tower project at an estimated cost of Rs 400 crore for 25 storeys each, which was approved in the cabinet too.

A senior official said they had earlier decided to go for private-public partnership and later proposed to entrust the project to National Building Construction Corporation, a public sector undertaking. But neither worked due to technical and financial constraints. In January this year, the cabinet approved the proposal to hire a transaction adviser for the project. Since then, the Public Works Department (PWD) called tenders thrice -- in February, June and October. "We couldn't get bidders the previous two times. We're not sure if we will get this time too. If no one is participating, we may have to give up the project," the official said.

Though initially planned for 25 floors each, it was later increased to 50 floors as per Floor Area Ratio (FAR). In January this year, the cabinet gave approval to opt for Transferable Development Rights (TDR). While PWD sources said the site is in a prime location with bus and Metro stations nearby, experts are also anticipating more vehicular movement.

"The existing Anand Rao flyover that touches Seshadri Road often leads to a traffic bottleneck near Freedom Park. If more offices come up, naturally there will be more cars and two-wheelers. This will worsen the problem as there are no alternative connecting roads. Some experts are in favour of dropping the project or coming up with a feasible alternative," sources said.

A pothole at the entrance of the Kempegowda bus station | VINOD KUMAR T

An exhibition showcasing a variety of fountain pens and related objects is being held at Trustwell Hospital (Sudhama Nagar) till Sunday, November 2, from 10am to 7pm. Named 'Bangalore Fountain Pen Show', this is the third iteration of the exhibition. Additionally, the Bengaluru Vintage Watch Collectors Club has featured for the second time, bringing a generous collection of watches

Court slams jailers for giving torn blanket to Darshan

'Accused should get new clothes which must be washed once a month'

YATHIRAJU @Bengaluru

A CITY civil and sessions court slammed the jail authorities for giving a torn chaddar (blanket) to actor Darshan and four others who are accused in the Renukaswamy murder case.

The court observed that the report of the Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bengaluru Urban, disclosed that jail authorities provided the torn chaddar to the accused.

"It is a shame on the part of the jail authorities. They should have some humanity towards them. As per the norms, they have to provide proper chaddar and other clothes to protect them from the winter season or cool weather," said the court, adding that the jail authorities have to provide them new, proper-quality chaddar and other clothes and clean them once a month.

Judge I P Naik, 63rd Additional City Civil and Sessions Court, made these scathing remarks recently, while partly accepting the explanation submitted by the jail authorities on the allegations made by the accused persons, namely actor Darshan, Jagadeesh, Anu Kumar, Nagaraju R and Lakshman M.

Directing the prison authorities to follow the rules and regulations provided under the Karnataka Prison and Correctional Services Manual, 2021, the court directed the Chief Superintendent of Jail that, if possible, accused persons may be shifted to a suitable cell or barrack which is safe from all angles.

The accused moved the court alleging that the jail authorities have not provided the basic amenities.

Darshan complains

During the visit, the accused informed the Member Secretary of DLSA that two cameras have been installed in their cell, they have provided the chaddar, but not provided pillows.

They also alleged that jail authorities are not allowing them to go outside in sunlight, are not providing them with a TV, and are not allowing them to meet their family members. Darshan complained about the pain in his fingers due to surgery, and the Jail authorities are not providing a mosquito coil, a mirror and a comb.

Then the Secretary noticed that jail authorities provided the torn chaddar. Finally, the Secretary observed that the jail authorities are scrupulously following the jail manual, but not allowing them to walk in the sunlight is an inconvenience to them.

However, the prison authorities told the court that they were allowed to walk on the corridor within the jail premises for each one hour in the morning and evening, and they have provided carpet, chaddar, bed sheet, plate, mug, bowl and tumbler.

'KA' FOR KANNADA

On the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava, a man advocates the promotion and use of Kannada, in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

MBA GRAD ENDS LIFE OVER MENTAL DISTRESS

A 25-year-old MBA graduate ended her life by hanging herself at her rented house on Railway Parallel Road in Subramanyanagar police limits. The incident came to light on Saturday after her parents, unable to reach her for three days, alerted the house owner. The deceased has been identified as Supriya from Davangere. She was staying alone. According to the police, Supriya may have taken the extreme step on Thursday. After being alerted, the house owner opened the door using a spare key and found her hanging. Supriya's parents told the police that she might have taken the extreme step due to mental distress over a personal matter. No suicide note was found and her mobile phone has been seized for further examination. A case of unnatural death has been registered at the Subramanyanagar Police Station. ENS

4 held after police bust rave party at illegal homestay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE police busted a suspected rave party organized at a homestay near Devigere Cross in the Kaggalipura police station limits in Bengaluru South district during the early hours of Saturday. Around 115 people, including 35 women and three minors, were detained by the police and later released after medical tests. Meanwhile, four persons have been arrested in connection with the case.

Bengaluru South District Superintendent of Police (SP) said acting on a tip-off, a raid was conducted around 2. 30 am on Saturday. More than 115 people were found partying, playing loud music, and disturbing nearby residents. Individuals below 21 years of age were also found to have consumed alcohol, he said.

A police officer said most participants, between 20 and 26 years old, were students and employees. The party started around 7 pm on Friday, and was organized through a WhatsApp group, and there were suspicions of narcotic substance consumption. All participants were sent for medical tests at the district hospital and released after sample collection, with notices issued to them.

The Kaggalipura police have registered a case under the Excise Act, public nuisance, and other sections of the BNS against four people. The officer added that the homestay was being run without any official permission.

Ramji gang member steals 'I Am God' hard disk, nabbed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Vijayanagar police have arrested a notorious habitual offender from the Ramji gang for stealing a hard disk and other electronic items from a parked car after breaking its windshield. The stolen hard disk contained contents of a yet-to-be-released Kannada film 'I Am God'.

The accused has been identified as Jayaseelan (45), a native of Tamil Nadu, while his son, who is also involved in the crime, is yet to be arrested.

According to the police, the incident occurred on October 4 when Ravi Gowda, the producer and actor of the Kannada movie 'I Am God', had parked his car near a cafe in Vijayanagar. Jayaseelan and his son allegedly broke the windshield of the car and stole the hard disk, a tablet, and other electronic items. The incident was captured on CCTV cameras.

₹70-crore scam in EPFO Co-op Society

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICES
@Bengaluru

AROUND Rs 70 crore financial scam has surfaced within the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Staff Credit Co-operative Society Limited.

CJ Muralidar, a Section Supervisor at the EPFO office on Rajaram Mohan Roy Road, and also the president of the co-operative society, filed a complaint with the Cubbon Park police on Saturday accusing Chief Executive Officer (CEO) G Gopinath, former accountant BL Jagadish, former presidents Jayashankar and Vijendra Rao, former CEOs Lingappa Gowda and Prabhakar, and others of siphoning off funds collected from employees.

According to the FIR, Gopinath, along with several former presidents and accountants, allegedly diverted crores of rupees that had been deposited by nearly 300 serving and retired EPFO employees as fixed deposits (FDs). Members were promised 9% annual interest, but payments reportedly stopped about three months ago, raising suspicion.

The FIR stated that Muralidar's internal probe revealed that while the society had received around Rs 70 crore in deposits, only Rs 3.5 crore had been disbursed as loans, suggesting large-scale fund diversion. The accused are alleged to have created fake records, forged documents, and manipulated financial statements to cover up the embezzlement.

Over 50 former and current employees gathered at the Cubbon Park police station, demanding the arrest of the accused. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Akshay M Hakay said the police are probing the matter.

The police have registered a case under sections related to cheating, criminal breach of trust, and forgery of the BNS.

With The Blessings of the Eminent Chinnaiah and Subbalaksmamma

Heartfelt Congratulations

NIRDC National Industries Research And Development council

InDApp INDIAN TRADE CENTRE

Dr II A. C. Sambasiva

Zonal Chairman - NIRDC, Karnataka State

Heartfelt congratulations to Dr II A. C. Sambasiva, Coming from a humble family of our village, who has selflessly served as a compassionate doctor by organizing numerous health camps and giving new life to countless individuals. We take immense pride in congratulating him on assuming charge as **Karnataka State Zonal Chairman of the National Industries Research and Development Council (NIRDC) at the NIRDC Bhavan, New Delhi.**

-: Best Wishes from :-

Board of Management and Staff

D. Jayamala, S. Hridya and Chinnaiah's family, Amblical Village, Mulbagilu.

SRI LAKSHMI SUPER SPECIALTY GROUP OF HOSPITALS

A Unit of Samjaya Healthcare Limited

Bengaluru: Kaggadasapura I K.R. Puram I Madivala

99017 11716 www.slsshospital.com

Follow Us On

Spoorthi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients propose to purchase the schedule property from the owner viz., **Mr. SUCHINDAR .S and Mr. SHREYAS .S,** both sons of Mr.Srinivasan .N, residents of No.97/A, 44th Cross, 7th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, BANGALORE – 560 010 and the schedule property is gifted in terms of the **Gift Deed dated 02-07-2020, document No.959/2020-21, Book I, recorded in CD No.RJND 684 and registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Rajajinagar, Bangalore..**

Any person or persons having any claims/ objections for the above sale transaction may lodge their claims/objections with documentary evidence within **fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, thereafter my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction. Any claims received beyond stipulated period will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential immovable property bearing EKhata No.1631419438, Property No.508/97A/13 (old KHB Site No.97/A, old PID No.22-14-13), situated at **44th Cross, 7th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore,** Ward No.108-Sri Ramamandira, together with the building thereon and the building constructed on site measuring :-

EAST TO WEST :: 25-0 Feet
NORTH TO SOUTH :: 40-0 Feet
TOTAL AREA :: 1000 Square Feet

and bounded as follows :

EAST BY :: Property bearing No.97/B, WEST BY :: Road, NORTH BY :: Road, SOUTH BY :: Property bearing No.108/B

Mr. Sadashiva M.H.
---ADVOCATE--- KRM LAW FIRM
No.137, Bhagyalakshmi Complex
Ground Floor, 5th Main, 3rd Stage, 2nd Block, Basaveshwaranagara BANGALORE-560 079.
Ph.No.9980816715
Email: lawfirm.krm@gmail.com

BANGALORE DATED : 02.11.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following documents pertaining to the Schedule Property are lost / misplaced by my client:

i. Sale Deed dated 15/07/1991, registered as Document No. 2275/91-92, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Kengeri, executed in favour of Mr. Vigneshwara Bhat..
ii. Release Deed dated 22/06/2012, registered as Document KEN-1-02767-2012-13, in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Jayanagar (Kengeri), Bangalore, executed by Mr. Madhusudhan S Paranjape & Master Pranav M. Paranjape.
iii. Deed of Partition dated 10/05/2013, registered as Document KEN-1-01348-2013-14, in the office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Jayanagar (Kengeri), Bangalore, amongst Mrs. Indumathi V Gokhale, Mrs. Bharathi, Mrs. Padma Bhide & Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Raghunath Paranjpe.

I hereby call upon any one having any claim on the Schedule Property, on the strength of the missing documents and the other revenue records, to lodge your claim with me within 10 days from today. In case no objections/claim is received, it will be deemed that the said Property is free from encumbrance and no claim whatsoever will be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential property bearing No. 956 (LIG), formed by KHB, situate at 6th Cross, 1st Main, Kengeri Satelite Town, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet, together with the house constructed thereon and bounded on the:- East by: Property No. 957, West by : Property No. 955, North by : Road, South by : Property No. 957.

B.N. Tulsi Kumar, Advocate,
No. 18/1 (old No.1020), "ARA Associates",
11th Main, RPC Layout, Bangalore - 560 104.
Mobile: 9845811922 bn.tulsikumar@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Original Sale Deed dated 09/01/1997 executed in favour of Mrs.Anitha, registered as document No.2374/96-97, Book I, Volume No.1820, at pages 19 to 24 with the office of the Sub Registrar, Nelamangala for Site **No.50,** Khatha No.233 by Mallarabanawadi approved by Plan No.BMRDA/LAO/19/96-97 dated 28-11-96 out of converted Sy.No.70 vide No.BDS.ALN(N)SR 84/94-95 dated 04-03-1995 by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District, situated at Mallarabanawadi Village Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Bangalore Rural District measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft in all measuring 1200 sq ft has been lost in transit during September 2025.

Any person/s, have found the same may return it to the undersigned or any objections relating to the above may contact the below within SEVEN DAYS from the date of this notice.

C.P. SAJEEV & JAISRI S. KRISHNAN, ADVOCATES
No. 34 & 35, 1st Floor, 8th Main,
13th Cross, Malleswaram,
Bangalore-560003.
Ph. No. 9845200930 & 9880748335.

QuoteExpress **THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED** › MARK TWAIN

Better Rail Connectivity and Enhanced Passenger Convenience

"Better connectivity transforms lives, opens up new opportunities, and drives economic growth in every corner of the nation."
- **Narendra Modi,** Prime Minister

Flagging Off of

Train No. 17309

Yesvantpur – Vasco Da Gama Express

With provision of Additional Stoppage at Shivani Station

BENEFITS

- Enhanced travel convenience for passengers – especially businessmen, software professionals, students and farmers from Shivani and surrounding areas to major cities such as Bengaluru, Davangere, Hubballi and Vasco-da-Gama.
- Serves as a key transit hub in Karnataka, connecting nearby towns and villages and facilitating efficient and affordable travel for the local population.
- Promotes social and economic development of the central Karnataka region, creating new opportunities for trade and livelihood.
- Improves access to education, healthcare and other essential services, benefiting people across the Shivani region and neighboring areas.

By
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

Venue: Shivani Railway Station **Date:** 02.11.2025 **Time:** 04:30 PM

You are cordially invited

South Western Railway
In Service of the Nation

www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in | South Western Railway-SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY | sw_railways

PUB/595/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

SMARTADS

40x60 BDA Site for Sale
BSK 6th Stage
4th 'T' Block
OPP PARK 40 feet Road, - East Facing 5 min. walk from Silk Institute Metro - Station 12500/- sft. slightly - negotiable. M: 9845286583

FOR RENT

900 sft SBA office Space for rent at Malleshwaram - Sampige Road Suitable for Clinics / Banks / Labs/Training Center/ any back office work etc.
Contact: +91 6364003399

HEAVY VEHICLES FOR SALE
Commercial vehicle
Ashok Leyland comet
24 feet container truck
in Good condition.
YEAR MODEL - 2010
BS II - 3 NOS
YEAR MODEL - 2011
& 2012 - BS III - 8 NOS
MOB: 7373077307

Nelamangala.

2 Acres 5 Guntas land for sale near Sondekoppa
Quick and transparent deal.
Good location for layout.
Direct owners: +917899028881

TUMKUR Plots for sale

Book Your Plot and Get 10 gms Gold Free
TUDA Approved A Khata sites in Hirehalli Tumkur ,1.9 kms B'lore-Tumkur Highway , Rs 2,100/- sqft
call- 7899028881 / 9964705451

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and CM Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the new campus of Tumkur University — 'Gnanasiri' — at Bidarakatte near Tumakuru on November 7

WORDS OF ONLY CM AND I MATTER ON POWER TRANSFER, SAYS SHIVAKUMAR

'There is consensus between us; That's what made Congress win 136 seats in 2023 Assembly elections in state'

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

AMID talks of change in leadership within the ruling Congress, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said here on Saturday that only his and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's words are relevant on the issue. "Only what the CM and I say matters. Words of others don't matter. No one, including you (media) and leaders, should get exhausted talking about this," he told reporters on the sidelines of Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Kanteerava Stadium. He was referring to speculation of a change in leadership and cabinet reshuffle as the government completes two-and-a-half years in November.

Asked whether he and CM are in consensus, he said, "We won 136 Assembly seats and increased our strength to 140 because of consensus." This also implied that only he and Siddaramaiah know the truth about sharing of power and the decision the high command is likely to take, analysts said.

Shivakumar has effectively scuttled alleged attempts by Siddaramaiah and his camp to create a third alternative to the chief minister's post, and has managed to reduce it to a straight fight between him and Siddaramaiah, they added.

He is said to have scuttled a recent SC/ST MLAs' meeting called by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, reportedly on the advice of CM. Now, he has the task cut out to stop a rally planned by Dalit ministers to stake claim to the CM's post, sources said.

Parameshwara asserted in Tumakuru on Saturday that the rally will be held at an appropriate time, clarifying that no instructions have come from the high command to call it off.

"No one has applied the brakes on holding a Dalit rally. It happens when it happens," he added.

But Shivakumar has managed to get the high command to order ministers not to issue statements on the change in leadership or cabinet reshuffle. "I was asked to keep quiet and I am doing it promptly," remarked Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa. Shivakumar is now taking some leaders, including the "original" Congressmen, into confidence.

CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar arrive for Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Kanteerava Stadium in Bangaluru on Saturday | KEVIN NASHON

Banquet creates buzz

Amid speculation of a change in leadership and cabinet reshuffle, a feast organised by former cooperation minister KN Rajanna for CM Siddaramaiah at his residence on November 7 is creating a buzz. Rajanna, an ST Nayaka leader, has been vociferously backing Siddaramaiah to complete the full five-year term. He is aiming to make a comeback into the cabinet and if not, he is insisting on giving a ministerial berth to another ST Nayaka leader.

But Parameshwara said the feast has nothing to do with politics as Siddaramaiah goes to Rajanna's house whenever he visits Tumakuru.

Meanwhile, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa reiterated that there is no 'November Kranti'. Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Saturday, Mahadevappa said, "Siddaramaiah will continue as the chief minister. The party high command will take the final decision on all major matters, including any cabinet reshuffle in the state."

Reshuffle to be decided by Cong brass: Satish

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

KARNATAKA Public Works Minister **Satish Jarkiholi** has said that the much-debated cabinet reshuffle in the state will be decided entirely by the Congress high command.

Speaking to reporters in Belagavi on Saturday, Satish said that there has been talk of a cabinet reshuffle for a long time.

"But the final decision will be taken by the high command. Many leaders in the Congress are capable of becoming ministers, but only 34 can be accommodated. The decision on who should be retained and who should be replaced will be made by the party leadership. I neither have the power nor the authority to comment on this matter," Satish elaborated.

He added that discussions on the reshuffle, which was expected after 30 months of governance, have reached the final stage. "It is possible that deliberations have already taken place at the Delhi level. Whatever happens will be strictly in line with the op brass' decision," Satish said, noting that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's recent remarks were the first public acknowledgment of the impending reshuffle.

Reacting to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda's recent statement expressing readiness to resign from the cabinet, Satish remarked, "If the high command directs, we will all abide by its decision."

On Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah's recent remark that he would lead the AHINDA movement (a social coalition of minorities, backward classes, and Dalits) after his father, Saitsh said, "Yathindra has only said that he will take forward the AHINDA cause after the Chief Minister. That is true, but there is no need to interpret it differently."

With political circles in Karnataka abuzz about an imminent reshuffle, Satish's remarks indicate that all eyes are now on the Congress high command in Delhi, which will have the final say on the shape of the Siddaramaiah cabinet.

> **The final decision on cabinet reshuffle will be taken by the high command. Many leaders in the Congress are capable of becoming ministers, but only 34 can be accommodated**
>
> Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi

DKS counters Siddu camp's aggression with restraint

THE behind-the-scenes struggle for power in the ruling Congress appears to be intensifying. A sense of uncertainty is palpable in the corridors of Vidhana Soudha, and talks of leadership change have become central to most political discussions in the state.

While that may have been the case for some time, what is striking is that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's camp has kept the pot boiling, while Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and his followers are exercising restraint. That is unusual for a leader known for playing his game on the front foot and often preferring a less-nuanced approach while countering his political detractors.

The state Congress chief's restraint on the leadership issue could mean that he is reasonably assured by the party's high command that his interests would be protected. That could perhaps be the reason for his confidence, even though the CM's camp is indicating that a leadership change at this juncture would be riddled with challenges and a tough call to make.

The CM's staunch follower, Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan's emphatic declaration earlier this week that Siddaramaiah will continue as CM for full five years, till 2028, reflects the mood in the camp. He even went on to say that Shivakumar should become the CM after Siddaramaiah completes his full tenure in 2028. In fact, the minister was more confident than the CM himself. Siddaramaiah appears to have made a climbdown from his earlier stance of asserting that he would complete the full term to stating that he would complete the five-year tenure if the high command permits it. The reason for this subtle yet profound change — "if the high command permits" — is not known.

Also, Siddaramaiah's recent remarks on reconsidering his earlier decision not to contest the next assembly elections were also worth taking note of, especially in the current political context. His remarks came after his son and Congress MLC Dr Yathindra Siddaramaiah kicked up a political storm by stating that his father was at the fag end of his political career and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi would provide leadership to all those who believe in Congress ideology. Jarkiholi, a Congress strongman from Belagavi, is not in a hurry, and he seems to have set his eyes on the top post only after the 2028 polls. He played down the CM's son's remarks that ruffled many in Shivakumar's camp.

In any case, the remarks by Khan or Yathindra may not necessarily indicate the developments in the offing, but they do reflect the thinking in the CM's camp. Speculation over a major rejig in the cabinet after the government completes its halfway mark of two-and-a-half years in office on November 20, and talks resurfacing about a Dalit leader in the party being made a CM, are also said to originate from the leaders resisting any plans by the high command to change the CM. Many legislators continue to openly express their ministerial aspirations, while some ministers remark about 'sacrificing' their posts to work for the party, if the high command takes such a decision.

Backroom manoeuvring will only get intense. The CM's camp would project how indispensable Siddaramaiah is for the party, in Karnataka as well as in national politics, as Congress lacks a strong OBC face. Their efforts would be to suggest that replacing an OBC leader, who has effectively implemented the welfare schemes — five guarantees announced in the run-up to the 2023 assembly polls — with a Vokkaliga leader may not bode well for the party. While that may be the CM's camp's strategy, the DyCM seems to be giving the impression that he is unfazed by all this hullabaloo, hoping that everything will be decided by the high command.

For now, Congress leaders from both camps appear to be keenly awaiting the outcome of the Bihar elections this month, as that may have some impact on how the situation evolves in Karnataka. Congress may not be a major factor in the Bihar elections, which largely revolve around Nitish Kumar and Lalu Yadav, with the BJP emerging as a force. Congress is a junior partner in the alliance led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). However, if I.N.D.I.A bloc emerges victorious, the Congress high command would be more assertive. On the contrary, a poor show by the party could make its leadership risk-averse. That could also embolden Congress satraps in the state to assert themselves when they sit down for negotiations with central leaders after November 20.

Caste survey serving CM's hidden agenda, says HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday questioned the authenticity and credibility of the socio-economic survey, also known as the caste survey. "It was a survey done by Siddaramaiah for his hidden agenda and not for the welfare of the people of the state," the former CM said. The survey ended on Friday.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Kumaraswamy said what the government will achieve from the survey and to what extent people have responded to it. "Poor and illiterate people are there in all castes. The government must first improve the quality of education," he said, and added that there is a huge shortage of teachers, schools, and universities.

He hit out at Siddaramaiah for deflecting a question on the pothole filing deadline. On Friday, while responding to media questions on failure to fill potholes in the state capital, the CM had told the media persons to ask that question to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru development portfolio. "It is an irresponsible statement by the Chief Minister, who held a meeting and fixed the deadline to fill potholes. It shows how much respect the officials show to the directions by the Chief Minister," the Union Minister said.

Responding to a question on speculations over Shivakumar taking over as the CM later this month, the former CM said it is an internal issue of Congress and he would not comment on it. Ministers and ruling party leaders themselves are talking about it, and there is no need for him to comment, he said, responding to a question on speculations over major developments in Congress in November.

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy also slammed the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) authorities dumping waste outside the residences of people who throw waste on the streets.

Vidhana Soudha lit up in the colours of the Kannada flag to mark Kannada Rajyotsava on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

'Steps to increase popularity of Kannada'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"IT is important to formulate laws to impart learning in schools in mother tongue. I urge the Central government to look into this issue," the CM said. He said, "This year, Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhasthi have taken our language to the global platform by winning the International Booker Prize."

He said, "Our government has taken steps to increase the popularity of Kannada. We are doing various activities across the state under the theme Hesarayitu Karnataka, Usiragali Kannada. We have also made it mandatory for commercial establishments to have Kannada on their name boards covering at least 60% of the space."

He said the government has spent over Rs 65,000 crore to strengthen the education department. "Over eight lakh children are studying in residential schools across the state. Over 3,000 schools have completed 100 years and 800 new Karnataka Public Schools will start from next year. Every school will have infrastructure worth Rs 4 crore," he said.

The state government will also introduce Kannada in madrasas across the state to bring minorities into the mainstream. "Already, 180 madrasas are teaching Kannada and this will be further extended to 1,500 schools. Our government is investing Rs 83 crore to develop 100 Urdu medium schools similar to Karnataka Public Schools," he added.

DCM DK Shivakumar, said, "A decision will be taken in the next cabinet meeting on hoisting Kannada flags in private and government offices for entire November." He added, "We need to protect Kannada from the attacks of English and Hindi. Karnataka is not just a state, it is a place of culture. Kannada is not just a language, it is our innermost voice. Kannada is a way of life."

5 stabbed during procession in B'gavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

KANNADA Rajyotsava celebrations in Belagavi turned tense on Satuday when a group of miscreants unleashed violence during a festive tableau procession.

Amid the vibrant crowd gathered to celebrate the day, unidentified assailants reportedly stabbed five people before fleeing.

The shocking incident occurred near Lakshmi Complex in Sadashivnagar, where the miscreants suddenly stormed into the crowd and began attacking people with knives. Panic spread through the area as the injured collapsed amid the chaos.

According to police sources, five persons sustained injuries, with two said to be in a critical condition. Three of the injured have been admitted to Belagavi Institute of Medical Scienes Hospital, while two others are being treated at a private hospital.

The victims have been identified as Gurunath Vakkund, Sachin Kamble, Lokesh Betageri, Mahesh, Vinayak and Nazir Pathan — all residents of Nehru Nagar.

The police have launched an investigation to trace the attackers and restore calm in the city, which had gathered to mark the state's formation day.

Authorities have stepped up security across Belagavi to prevent any further untoward incidents during the ongoing Rajyotsava celebrations.

People in thousands gather at Rani Channamma Circle in Belagavi to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava on Saturday evening | EXPRESS

Cop's selfie with MES neta sparks outrage in B'gavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

EVEN as Kannada groups had hailed the Belagavi district administration's firm stance in denying permission to }the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) to observe a "Black Day" on Kannada Rajyotsava, a fresh controversy has surfaced after a police inspector was seen taking a selfie with a leader of the MES.

Sources said Circle Police Inspector JM Kalimirchi of Malmaruti Police Station, who was deployed for bandobast duty, was caught on camera casually chatting and taking a selfie with Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti leader Shubham Shelke.

The incident has triggered widespread anger among Kannada activists, who have accused the officer of showing sympathy towards an outfit known for its anti-Kannada stance. Several Kannada organisations have demanded immediate disciplinary action against the officer, calling his behaviour "an insult to Karnataka's pride on its foundation day."

Meanwhile, hundreds of pro-Maharashtra activists defied police restrictions to participate in a Black Day rally in Belagavi on Saturday. The MES had earlier declared November 1, Karnataka's Formation Day (Kannada Rajyotsava), as Black Day.

Action will be taken against inspector, says Parameshwara

Karnatka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara has said that action would be initiated against the Belagavi police inspector who took a selfie with MES leader Shubham Shelke during the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations.

Police Inspector JM Kalimirchi's selfie with MES leader Shubham Shelke

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Dr Parameshwara said, "Just because someone took a selfie does not automatically mean they are anti-Kannada. However, any official or individual who acts against the interests, values, or dignity of the Kannada land will face strict action."

Reiterating the government's commitment to protect Karnataka's identity, the Home Minister asserted, "There will be no compromise when it comes to safeguarding the land, water, and language of Kannada Nadu."

Those who live in Karnataka must learn Kannada: DKS

"We will do the job of changing the mindset of MES as they are working in unity as a group and party. They are also Kannadigas. They have also represented the people in the Assembly. If one has to live in Karnataka, they have to be a Kannadiga. Those who live in Karnataka must learn Kannada," Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said when asked the Belagavi police inspector taking a selfie with a MES leader.

> **Just because someone took a selfie does not automatically mean they are anti-Kannada. However, any official or individual who acts against the interests, values, or dignity of the Kannada land will face strict action** — Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara

Kannada pride not arrogance but celebration of identity: Prakash Raj

Siddaramaiah says all 70 awardees represent diverse fields, their contribution varied too

1 Students perform during Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at Kanteerava Stadium, in Bengaluru, on Saturday 2 A man and his son carry a Kannada flag 3 Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot during Rajyotsava celebrations | KEVIN NASHON, VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO call oneself a Kannadiga, to love Kannada — that is not arrogance. It is a celebration of Karnataka's distinct identity and richness", said actor Prakash Raj speaking at the Rajyotsava Awards 2025 event held at Ravindra Kalakshetra on Saturday.

Speaking after receiving the Rajyotsava Award 2025, marking the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava day organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture, he said, "Kannada Rajyotsava is not just about linguistic pride. It is not merely about the language. Sometimes we misunderstand what language pride means. Speaking Kannada alone is not Kannada pride. What lies within its womb, what emotion it carries — that is the essence," adding that the emotion within being a Kannadiga, is the faith in Basavanna's idea of 'Sarva Janangadha Shantiya Thota' (a garden of peace for all humankind) and Kuvempu's message of 'Vishwamanava' — the Universal Human.

Another awardee HL Pushpa, a poet said, "It is heartening that this government has recognised people from marginalised and overlooked communities. There are 13 awardees this year, I hope more women achievers from different walks of life will continue to be recognised in the years to come."

"As the Chief Minister of the State, I have not recommended anyone's name for the award. The final selection has been made solely based on the decision of the Selection Committee," said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, speaking after presenting the awards to the 70 achievers.

"In view of Karnataka completing 70 years of formation, 70 achievers have been selected for the awards. It was our decision that instead of considering only those who had applied, experts and achievers in the respective fields should be identified and honoured," he said.

Former Indian hockey captain Ashish Ballal, former Air Force pilot Air Marshal Philip Rajkumar, who played a key role in the development of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, and retired judge of the Karnataka High Court P B Bajantri, writer Rajendra Chenni and MR Jayaram of Ramaiah University was among the 70 awardees who were present.

₹1cr to develop hometowns of Bharat Ratna, Jnanpith awardees

RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI @Kalaburagi

THE Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department will release a grant of Rs 1 crore each for the development of the hometowns of Jnanpith Award-winning writers and the three Bharat Ratna recipients from Karnataka who have contributed to Kannada language and welfare of the state, RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge said in Kalaburagi on Saturday.

Speaking to the media, Priyank said that his department has taken this decision on the day of Kannada Rajyotsava and it would make the hometowns of these great personalities a memorable one to visit. The local administrations would decide on how to make best use of this grant given by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, he said.

Other departments or the Chief Minister may also join hands to realise this initiative, he added.

Some of the places which will receive the grant from the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department are Thirthahalli in Shivamogga district (Kuvempu), Sadhanakere in Dharwad district (Da Ra Bendre), Saligrama in Udupi district (Shivaram Karanth), Hogenahalli in Kolar district (Masti Venkatesh Iyengar), Savanur in Haveri district (VK Gokak), Melige in Shivamogga district (UR Ananthamurthy), Godhageri in Belagavi district (Chandrashekhar Kambar) and the birthplace/workplace of Girish Karnad- All Jnanpith awardees; Muddenahalli in Chikkaballapur district (Sir MM Visvesvaraya), Ron in Gadag district (Bhimsen Joshi) and Bengaluru (Prof CNR Rao) — are Bharat Ratna recipients.

SBI celebrates Kannada Rajyotsava

Bengaluru: State Bank of India's local head office on St Mark's Road celebrated Kannada Rajyotsava on Saturday, with a Kannada flag hoisting ceremony. Chief General Manager Joohi Smita Sinha presided over the event, hoisting the flag and noting SBI's deep connection to Karnataka's economic progress and its role in supporting the state's development. Senior officials, including V N Sarma, Prafulla Kumar Jena, Lekha Menon, General Manager (CCG), along with staff and their families, attended the ceremony. The programme featured a brief presentation on the formation of Karnataka, the significance of the Kannada language, and the history of the Karnataka flag. Adding to the celebratory spirit, staff members performed popular Kannada songs. The entire SBI campus was adorned in red and yellow, reflecting the cultural pride of the day.

IISc declared Centre of Excellence by Centre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

INDIAN Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is recognised by the Ministry of Mines, Government of India as one of the Centres of Excellence (CoE) under the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM).

Launched with a budget of Rs 16,300 crore, the Mission aims to strengthen India's self-reliance in critical minerals vital for clean energy, defence, and advanced technology sectors, according to a press release on Saturday. The newly established CoE at IISc will set up an Integrated Critical Minerals Research and Development Facility covering the entire value chain right from exploration and extraction to processing and recycling. It will design modular pilot-scale plants using indigenous process and equipment technologies to reduce import dependence and drive sustainable growth. The CoE will also collaborate with industry partners through IISc's Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) to translate research into scalable industrial solutions, the release added.

IISc will pioneer a greener lithium-ion battery recycling process, offering a sustainable alternative to the conventional black-mass route currently exported due to inefficient recovery systems. To support India's Green Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Mission, the Institute will also recycle platinum group elements (PGEs) from spent auto catalysts, targeting up to 90% recovery efficiency through high-throughput systems integrated with PGE separation and purification technologies.

Speaking on the recognition, Omprakash Subbarao, CEO, FSID CORE at IISc, said, "This milestone marks a decisive step toward building India's indigenous capabilities in the critical-mineral value chain right from exploration to processing and recycling. By catalysing industry-academia partnerships and deploying pilot-scale innovations at IISc, we aim to strengthen our strategic autonomy, support the energy transition and enable advanced-technology ecosystems. Together, we will help transform research into action and elevate India's role on the global critical-minerals stage."

All the news. In just a click. Log to www.newindianexpress.com

/thenewindianexpress
@newindianexpress
The New Indian Express
Google Play App Store

TENDER NOTICE

SAINIK SCHOOL
AMARAVATHINAGAR - 642 102
UDUMALPET TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT

Invites sealed tenders before 23-11-2025 to supply meat group items and for the service of hair cutting as enlisted in our School Website: www.sainikschoolamaravathinagar.edu.in.

PRINCIPAL

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.

Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com

No:BMCRC/SUP/TENDER/Tablets/07/2025-26/351A
Date:21.10.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Tablets to Medical College Hospital,BMCRC,Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inof Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 27.11.2025up to 5.00 PM.The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.356.44 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.vims.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/601/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಜ್ಯ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ಆಡಳಿತ ತರಬೇತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಆವರಣ, ಲಲಿತಮಹಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು –570011
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: SIUD-ADMN0HOST/30/2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30.10.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (Through KPP Portal Only)

ರಾಜ್ಯ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿವರದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಸಂ 1 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : SIUD 2025-26/IND0003/CALL-2
ವಿವರ : Supply and installation of omputers, Laptops, & firewall to SIUD, Mysuru
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : 63.10 Lakhs ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ : 1,26,200/-

ಕ್ರಸಂ 2 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : SIUD 2025-26 /EL WORK_INDENT1/CALL-2
ವಿವರ : Supply & Installation of Air conditioner for Admin Building of SIUD and Repairs of Air conditioners in the dining hall of Netravathi Hostel, ATI Campus, Mysuru
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : 3.22 Lakhs ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ :8,055/-

ಕ್ರಸಂ 3 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : SIUD 2025-26/IND0002/CALL-2 ವಿವರ : Supply and installation of advanced kangen water purifier system at SIUD campus, Mysuru
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : 3.00 Lakhs ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ : 7,500/-

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov in ರಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 07.11.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ, ತಮ್ಮ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

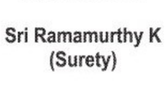
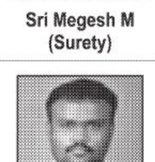
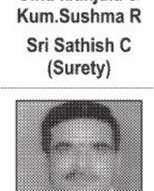
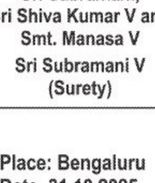
DIPR/DDMYS/1148/KSMCA/625/2025-26

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ರಾಜ್ಯ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

THE HANUMANTHANAGAR CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
H.O. : # 7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560 019,
Telephone: 080-22428985, 26507976

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) (for immovable property)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Hanumanthanagar Co-operative Bank Limited.,** H.O. : # 7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019 under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord.3 of 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued and demand notice calling upon the undersigned borrowers/legal heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers/legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 8 of the said rule. The borrowers / legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property an any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **The Hanumanthanagar Co-op. Bank Ltd.,** Head Office No.7/29, 3rd Main Road, 1st Cross, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019.

Loanee Name	Balance Amount, Possession Date and Property Address	SCHEDULE
Sri. Keshavakumar M.K., Smt. Bhagya M. Smt.M.K Dhanalakshmi and Sri.M.K.Mohan Dev Sri.Vinay Kumar N.S (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.55,53,245/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.87/1, formed in Sy.No.38/5, Katha No.658/87/1/38/5/653, Old Katha No.142/1 situated at Srigandadakaval Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, (R R Nagar Sub-Division) Bengaluru.	East to West : 43'-00" Feet North to South : 26'-00" Feet East by : Site No.86, West by : Property Belongs to Rajajinagar HBCS, North by : Site No.87, South by : Road
 Sri Vijayendra M N & Sri Prabhu M N	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.5,45,668/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE - A All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.54/1, situated at V V Puram Extension, Sajjan Rao Road, Behind Kusuma Vilas,now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.50 (V V Puram Range) Bengaluru. Along with right of way to the said building from main road in passage measuring 7 feet x 66 feet (Passage 1) and also right of way to the said building from Passage 1 measuring 6 feet 6 inches x 30 feet (Passage 2) and one staircase room in the ground floor. SCHEDULE - B Definite undivided share, right, title, interest in the land comprised in the Schedule "A" Property equivalent to 405 sq.ft. SCHEDULE - C All that piece and parcel of the ground floor having built up area of 810 Sq.ft. constructed on Schedule "A" Property bearing corporation No.54/1, situated at V V Puram Extension, Sajjan Rao Road, behind Kusuma Vilas, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.50 (V V Puram Range) Bengaluru, excluding the staircase room.	East to West : 27'-06" Feet North to South : 30'-00" Feet East by : Passage & Private Property, West by : Conservancy Lane, North by : Private Property, South by : Private Property.
 Sri.M.S. Yogesh Smt. S.H Akshatha Sri.Ramesh.M.S (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.36,87,223/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.84, Katha No.282, situated at Mysore Paper Mills Employees House Building Co-Op. Society (regd.), Mallathahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Jnanabharathi Ward No.129, Bengaluru.	East to West : 30'-00" Feet, North to South : 40'-00" Feet East by : Site No. 83, West by : Site No. 85, North by : Site No. 69, South by : Road.
Smt. Kavitha R Sri Prabhu B S Sri Ramamurthy K (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.21,79,415/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE – A All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khaneshmari Janjar No.294/A, property No.13/3, situated at Bychapura Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, now comes under Anneshwara Village Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, with E-Katha No.150300201900700396. SCHEDULE – B All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khaneshmari Janjar No.294, Property No.13/2, situated at Bychapura Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, now comes under Anneshwara Village Panchayath, Devanahalli Taluk, with E-Katha No.150300201900700396.	SCHEDULE – A East to West : 30'-00" Feet North to South : 30'-00" Feet East by : Raju's Property, West by : Muniyappa's Property, North by : Muniyappa's Property, South by : Road. SCHEDULE – B East to West : 18'-00" Feet North to South : 13'-00" Feet East by : Raju's Shop, West by : Road, North by : Muniyappa's House, South by : Common Passage.
Sri Harish R, Sri Gopal Krishna R, Sri Kiran R & Smt. Sumithra M Sri Megesh M (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.28,84,703/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.1, House List No.233, BBMP Katha No.233/1, B-Form SI No.927, situated at K.Narayanapura Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (K Narayanapura Range) Ward No.25, Bengaluru.	East to West : 29'-00" Feet North to South : 46'-00" + 40'-00" / 2 Feet East by : Remaining Portion of same Site No.1, West by : Private Property, North by : Site No.2, South by : Road.
 Sri Ramesh G, Smt. Savitha K B & Smt. Padma G Sri Arkesh A G (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.9,50,289/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE-A All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.17/1, Old No.17, situated at 2nd Cross, Ashokanagar, BSK 1st Stage, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Basavanagudi Range) Bengaluru with PID No.51-41-17/1. SCHEDULE-B All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.17/1, Old No.17, situated at 2nd Cross, Ashokanagar, BSK 1st Stage, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Basavanagudi Range) Bengaluru with PID No.51-41-17/1.	SCHEDULE-A East to West : 31'-9" + 40'-00" / 2 Feet North to South : 20'-00" + 27'-00" / 2 Feet East by : Property No.15/1, West by : Portion of Property No.17 & Krishnappa's Property, North by : Portion of the same Property, South by : Property No.1266/65. SCHEDULE-B East to West : 15'-5" + 16'-75" / 2 Feet North to South : 14'-00" + 17'-8" / 2 Feet East by : Portion of the same Property, West by : Road, North by : Portion of the same Property, South by : Krishnaiah's House.
 Sri Ravi H Smt. Manjula & Kum.Sushma R Sri Sathish C (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs. 8,01,998/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE Aall that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.32/1, (Eastern Portion) Old No 2, Old Munciple No 32, Sy No. 5/1of Gavipuram Village, Situated at 1st "A" Main Road, Arkavathi Nadi Road, Brindavanangara, Hanumanthanagar, now comes under B.B.M.P (Hanumantha nagar Range), Bengaluru with PID No.52-78-32/1.	East to West : 20'-5" Feet North to South : 12'-00" Feet and 3'-00" Feet Common Passage East by : Government Property, West by : Remaining Western portion of Property, North by : Property No.1, South by : 3 Feet Common Passage then Private Property.
Sri Venkatesh C Smt. Eshwaramma, Sri Subramani, Sri Shiva Kumar V and Smt. Manasa V Sri Subramani V (Surety)	Demand Notice Dated 16-08-2025 Posession Notice Dated 27.10.2025 Balance Outstanding : Rs.22,46,249/- as on 31.10.2025. SCHEDULE All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.114/1-22, Southern Portion, situated at 3rd Cross, Cauverynagara, Kathriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, now comes under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, (Girinagar Sub-Division) Bengaluru.	East to West : 30'-00" Feet North to South : 20'-00" Feet East by : Road, West by : Property No.21, North by : Remaining northern portion of same property, South by : Road.

Place: Bengaluru
Date 31.10.2025

Sd/- (Krishna G N)
Authorised Officer and General Manager (Incharge)
The Hanumanthanagar Co-operative Bank Limited,
Bangaluru-560019.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said on Saturday that standing crops on over 14.5 lakh hectares belonging to 18.5 lakh farmers have been destroyed in the recent rains in the state. The government has estimated crop loss worth Rs 2,798 crore according to the data collected by the Revenue Department, he said

Forest dept evicts family from Kudremukh nat'l park

According to RFO, final notice was issued fortnight ago; Family says govt gave title deed, but now evicted them without compensation

VINCENT D'SOUZA
@Mangaluru

(Left) PT Joseph and his family in front of their house inside Kudremukh National Park during the eviction drive, at Naravi Reserve Forest in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada ; The board put up by the Forest Department after the eviction

THE Karnataka Forest Department has evicted a family residing inside Kudremukh National Park for encroaching 4.94 acres of forest land in Naravi Reserve Forest at Arasinamakkie near Malavanthige village in Belthangady taluk of Dakshina Kannada district.

According to Belthangady Range Forest Officer Sarmishta, who led the drive, the eviction was carried out by following due procedures as per law. "Final notice was issued a fortnight ago. They tried to bring a court stay on eviction, but in vain. On the day of eviction, they themselves evicted the house," Sarmishta said, adding that after destroying the plantation, the Forest Department planted saplings, dug up trenches, and erected a board stating that the land has been reclaimed.

The officer said the father of PT Joseph (whose family was evicted) had managed to get an illegal grant of the forest land which was cancelled by the Puttur Assistant Commissioner in 2004. She said the family does not have any records to prove that they have been living there for 50 years, and all they have is a grant cancellation record. "It is a pure encroachment, and there is a question of compensation," added the officer.

According to sources, Joseph's father had settled there over 50 years ago, and in 1997, the State Government had issued a title deed for 4.9 acres under the Akrama Sakrama (regularisation) scheme. However, after the area was declared part of Kudremukh National Park, the family's ownership came under dispute. In 2004, the department cancelled their title deed, though the family was assured at the time that they would not be evicted forcibly due to the Naxal crisis in the region.

Despite this assurance, the Forest Department served Joseph with a notice asking him to vacate the land in 2014. His appeals were rejected over the years, and a final notice was issued on October 11 this year directing him to leave by October 30.

"I came here as a child and have lived here my whole life. The government itself gave us the title deed. Now, without any compensation, they've thrown us out. We have no house or land left," he rued.

Social activist Shekhar Layila condemned the government's action, recalling that the state had once promised not to evict forest dwellers forcibly. "When the Naxal problem was at its peak, the government pledged to protect people living inside the forest. Now, when peace has returned, they are being uprooted. This is inhumane. The government must immediately compensate and rehabilitate the family," he said.

'No funds for relocation'

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kudremukh National Park, Shivaram Babu said that 1,350 families stay inside the national park of which 650 have agreed to the voluntary relocation programme. The Forest Department has so far compensated and relocated 350 families. There is a need of Rs 300 crore for relocating and rehabilitating the remaining 300 families, Babu said. "It is a strange situation here. People are keen to come out, but there are no funds to relocate them. Applications have been pending for decades.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has said that he would talk to the Union Government to get funds under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority," he said.

Trustee of Wildlife First and former member of National Board for Wildlife Praveen Bhargav said, "The demand of the local people for quick resettlement from Kudremukh National Park is very valid and must be resolved. However, asking for the capture of elephants is untenable, as national parks are the last refugia for endangered species and occupy less than 1% of India's landscape. Such demands to capture tigers and elephants from within national parks and tiger reserves is completely unacceptable. The Forest Minister, who is very proactive on many issues, must take decisive steps to create a Special Purpose Vehicle for implementation of the voluntary resettlement projects," he added.

(With inputs from Bengaluru)

IN SAFE HANDS

Akka Force to be launched on Nov 19, says Laxmi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

KARNATAKA Minister for Women and Child Development **Laxmi Hebbalkar** on Saturday announced that the Akka Force, aimed at ensuring the protection of women and children, will be launched in Bengaluru on November 19. The force seeks to prevent violence against women and children, raise awareness on safety, and provide immediate assistance to victims of abuse.

Hebbalkar, who is the Udupi district in-charge minister, was speaking at the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations at the Mahatma Gandhi District Stadium.

Hebbalkar said that the force, a joint initiative of the Women and Child Development Department and Police Department, would initially be formed in Bengaluru, Udupi, Mysuru, and Mangaluru. Akka Force was first launched on a pilot basis in Bidar in 2023.

Referring to the state government's five guarantee schemes, she said they had given new impetus to women's empowerment, improving the living standards of 70–95% of poor women.

The savings made through the Shakti, Gruha Jyoti, and Gruha Lakshmi schemes are helping women meet food and nutrition needs, she added. Hebbalkar also announced that the government would celebrate the golden jubilee of anganwadis on November 19, marking 50 years of their inception.

Photo expo exposes cost of tourism on Gokarna environ

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

IN what can be called a concern towards environment, Chaitanya Hegde, a junior research fellow from NIMHANS has worked for eight months to capture the life of people and environment in Gokarna, which has changed due to high influx of tourists.

Chaitanya has put up a photo exhibition at Azim Premji University, which is hosting the annual climate festival, Coasts and Oceans of Life.

He said, "I chose to exhibit the transition seen in Gokarna because it is my native place and what better way to educate school students and communities about the impact of tourism and building resorts destroying forests and mountains in large scale. Recently, there was a landslide in Gokarna, however the sad part was locals and the government denied the fact that it was due to illegal quarrying and building of resorts and hotels but blamed it on monsoon."

He added, "In the past few years, Gokarna has drawn lakhs of tourists as Goa has become expensive. As a result, the architecture has also changed over a period of time. Though Gokarna is a humid place, the houses were designed in a way that it remained cool, especially the Kaavi paintings or art made out of cow dung on the walls helped houses remain cool throughout the year."

Through his photos, Chaitanya has shown that the resorts and hotels have failed to mimic these Kaavi paintings and have installed ACs. He explained, "It is disheartening to see how old houses that had features of sustainability have been replaced by bohemian style hotels. The changes have been drastic and they appear irreversible not only through changing architecture but even the profession of people. The beautiful nature, steep slopes of houses with Mangalore tiles have been replaced by modern architecture that rarely takes cultural sensitivities into consideration."

In one of the pictures, Chaitanya has captured untreated sewage waste or water flowing into open drains which has become a breeding place for mosquitoes and this in turn flows into rivers and seas leaving them polluted.

When asked on what needs to be done to prevent landslides or natural disasters from occurring in the future, he said, "Earlier, tourism was not a mode of earning livelihood for natives of Gokarna. However, now a lot of people have changed their profession and stepped into various business that cater to tourists. All I want to say is tourism can be encouraged but the landscape of Gokarna must be left as it is. Or else one should not be surprised if there are bigger disasters in the near future impacting the lives of local people."

CELEBRATING STATEHOOD

Artistes perform on MG Road in Bengaluru as part of Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations on Saturday| VINOD KUMAR T

The changing architecture in Gokarna. From traditional houses getting replaced by bohemian style hotels

Celebrating Mind: Manotsava to bring mental health conversations to the fore

RASHMI PATIL @Bengaluru

To create awareness about mental health issues and create awareness on the science behind them, the Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies along with National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and National Centre for Biological Sciences are hosting Manotsava on November 8 and 9.

The event will be held at the Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru. Philanthropist Rohini Nilekani, NIMHANS Director Prathima Murthy, Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind Associate Director Shriya Palchauduri played a key role in hosting the first-of-its-kind mental health festival for the second consecutive year.

Speaking to TNIE, Rohini said, "Manotsava is only in its second year. Last year, my team and I worked hard for this event. We are not talking about mental illness and deliberately talking about mental health to celebrate the positive aspects of it."

She added, "A lot of factors regarding mental health are in the hands of individuals. Manotsava, in a way, is helping people understand how they can deal with more distress, coping mechanisms and the time to seek professional help for mental health disorders."

The most important factor of Manotsava is that it has invited speakers of all age groups who are experts in their field.

Prathima believes that it is important to engage society to speak and understand the aspects surround mental health. She said, "Last year, we have seen how older people took an interest in understanding more about dementia or even depression. It sensitises them to understand the risks, signs and treatment associated with it. At the end of the day, they would know how to take care and when to seek help."

Besides, the sessions and other activities at Manotsava will also feature a Centre for Brain and Mind stall, allowing people to learn about the complex concepts behind mental health.

Shriya said, "We have experts who will be at the stalls to talk about complex genetic issues, symptoms, disease progression, caregiving and more. It is also a learning experience for researchers, as we will be able to better our research work and be of use to society."

She also pointed out that there are no definitive policies regarding mental health and caregiving. "With conversations and awareness about mental health among people, we are bringing attention and making the government understand that we do need a policy," Shriya said.

Attempts on to make legislature sessions paperless

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THOSE features will be added in the coming days, Khader said. The Assembly and Council are also trying to make legislature sessions paperless. Now, budgets, bills, committee reports and other documents are printed and given to legislators. If complete digitalisation is adopted, the sessions can be made paperless, he added. He said they are submitting two proposals to the government.

"One is to make our own software and manage it. The other option is to adopt the e-Vidhan application which has been designed by the central government for digitalisation of Assemblies. Since Karnataka is one of the few states that has both Assembly and Council, we should see which is suitable. The government will take a final decision on this" he added.

Naga Sadhus to attend Ati Rudra Mahayagya

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR
@Gadag

IN a first, Gadag will witness an Ati Rudra Mahayagya and hundreds of Naga Sadhus from the Himalayas will perform yagya for eight days. Water from 900 rivers from across the world and varieties of grains from North India will be in the worship ritual. A total of 200 priests will perform Ati Rudra Mahayagya.

A total of 5,000 women will participate in the mini Kumbh Mela which will start from Triketeshwar temple to VDS High School Ground in Gadag town. Nine big Agni Kundas will be installed at the VDS Ground to make this a mahayagya.

Ati Rudra Mahayagya will be held from November 11 to 18 at Gadag town's VDS High School Ground from 6 am to 7 pm. A big Dharma Sabha will also be organised on November 18. Entrepreneurs, industrialists and political leaders have joined hands to support this as it requires more than Rs 3 crore. Former minister CC Patil, entrepreneur Kiran Bhuma, Venkatesh Kulkarni, Ravi Dandin, Raju Kurudagi, Ravi Gunjikar and others are working for the preparation of the event.

People from Gadag and surrounding villages are invited to see this yagya as this is the first time such a big event for the welfare of humanity will be held in Gadag town.

Mahayagya Committee honourary president CC Patil said, "Gadag is witnessing a mega yagya and it is our luck that we are watching and participating in Ati Rudra Mahayagya. Hundreds of Naga Sadhus will visit Gadag and perform yagya and the big yagya will be held under the guidance and blessings of seer Sahadevananda Giriji Maharaj."

On Authors' Day, Sudha pays tribute to mentor TJS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CELEBRATING Authors' Day, writer and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty placed the spotlight on her late mentor T J S George, saying he inspired her to write and helped shape her journey as an author. Murty dedicated her message to George, acknowledging the influence he had on her confidence, her voice and her understanding of what it means to be a writer. In her Authors' Day message shared through a video, Murty opened by calling authorship a gift. "Hi, I'm Sudha Murthy. To be an author is a great privilege. It is creativity," she said, describing writing as a craft rooted in observation, sensitivity and constant learning, values she associated closely with George's guidance.

Murty explained what she believes makes a writer, saying,"To be a good author, number one, you should have experience in math, history, everything. You should be sensitive. Number three, you should read a lot."

Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy, Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty and others at Pustaka Jatre at Sapna Book House in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

She stressed that writing is not only about knowledge but also about technique and emotional clarity. "You should understand the technique. Writing is an art. It is also coining the words with the feelings," she said, adding that an author must remain aware, receptive and willing to absorb life in all its forms. Offering direct advice to aspiring writers, she said,"If somebody wants to be an author, number one, read a lot. Number two, be sensitive. Number three, absorb all the experiences."

Murty ended her message by urging aspiring writers to turn to the goddess of learning for guidance. "And last but not the least, pray to Goddess Saraswati or the goddess of learning. They all will make you from today an author," she said, concluding with 'Happy Authors' Day'.

Her message, centred on the qualities that shape an author, began with a tribute to George, whom she credited for inspiring her to write and giving her the confidence to find her voice.

A 45-year-old man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting a 51-year-old sanitation worker on a foot-over-bridge in Erragadda. Police identified the accused as Namburi Raju, a watchman at an apartment complex. He was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident

Andhra temple tragedy: Survivors blame poor crowd management

Around 30 people admitted with injuries, breathlessness; single gate used for both exit, entry

AGENCIES @ Kasibugga

SURVIVORS of the Venkateswara Swamy temple tragedy in Srikakulam district blamed the use of a singe narrow gate for both entry and exit and the lack of crowd management, which resulted in a stampede-like situation that killed nine people and injured several others on Saturday.

At least nine devotees--eight women and a boy--were killed at the temple in Kasibugga town. Many sustained injuries or suffered breathlessness and were admitted to local hospitals.

According to the survivors, chaos broke out when the only gate was abruptly opened, allowing those who had compeleted their darshan to come out, while another group waiting below tried to enter. This resulted in people falling on one another and a weak steel grill gave way, trapping many devotees underneath.

'The approach to the temple is narrow. There were many people and only single entry and exit point. As people jostled, we fell down. The steel grill was also very weak. The grill people were holding onto broke and everybody fell,' an autorickhaw driver, who survived the accident, told media.

He said around 20 devotees from his Dharmapuram village had travelled in two autorickshaws to the temple.

Another survivor, a woman undergoing treatment at the hospital, said the temple management first allowed some people for darshan and closed the gate ,and then suddenly reopened it.

'Opening the gate at once led to those coming out pushing against us,' she said adding she fell down and three people fell on her. A second male survivor said so many devotees were pushing against the closed gate.

'Then the door opened suddenly from the other side. Those returning came down with force. Because of their pressure, the people standing by the door and on the staircase could not stand. They all fell over one another,' he said.

He said the tragedy could have been averted if separate routes had been arranged for entry and exit. "There were provisions, but they did not use it." A woman who broke her legs in the incident, said she visited the temple for auspicious 'Ekadasi' day.

Another woman from Tekkali mandal, attending to her injured husband at the hospital, said devotees are also to blame for the tragedy. 'We saw the crowd and went ahead. But the temple authorities should have stopped us,' she said.

Criticising the poor arrangements at the temple, she said even basic facilities like drinking water were not available.

Meanwhile, a doctor treating the injured said nearly 30 people were admitted.

'Most came with injuries and breathlessness. Many with broken limbs. We gave first aid to all of them,' he said.

Andhra Pradesh minister K Atchannaidu with a survivor of the Venkateswara temple stampede in Srikakulam on Saturday | PTI

TAMIL PRIDE

Students in traditional attire mark Tamil Nadu Day with vibrant face paintings and cultural symbols, celebrating the richness of the Tamil language and heritage at a private college in Chennai on Saturday | ASHWIN PRASATH

K'taka women garment workers renew demand for better workplace conditions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

NEARLY 350 garment workers gathered at the Garments Karmikara Mahasangama on Saturday to demand free nutritious lunches, safer workplaces and improved welfare facilities across garment factories in Bengaluru and Ramanagara.

The event was organised by Munnade Social Organisation in collaboration with Cividep India.

The gathering was anchored in Cividep India's recent study on the dietary diversity of women garment workers, which revealed that most workers survive on low-quality, repetitive meals due to low wages, long work hours and limited access to affordable, nutritious food. Many workers reported skipping meals, relying on inexpensive, carb-heavy options and being unable to buy fruits, leafy vegetables or protein-rich foods leading to possible micronutrient deficiencies and long-term health risks.

The Mahasangama aimed to highlight these systemic challenges and push for government and industry action. Workers argued that access to a nutritious meal is essential not only for health but also for productivity and dignity at work. They urged the government to introduce meal programmes inside or near factories similar to public initiatives like Indira Canteens or to mandate factories to provide healthy lunches at no cost.

The event opened with an inaugural address by PGR Sindhia, Chief Commissioner, Bharat Scouts and Guides, followed by the chief guest. Umashree, film actress and Member of the Legislative Council, who received the workers' memorandum where she assured the gathering that she would raise the concerns with the Chief Minister and the Labour Minister.

Other dignitaries present included Tara, counselor, and former Regional Director, NIPCCD; Soumya Reddy, General Secretary, All India Mahila Congress; B Jayalakshmi, District Health Education Officer; Deepika Rao, Executive Director, Cividep India and others.

Colleague kills manager with dumbbell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A 41-year-old man was murdered by his colleague at their office in Saraswathinagar under Govindaraja Nagar police limits on Saturday around 1.30 am.

The deceased has been identified as Bheemesh Babu from Chitradurga. He and the accused, Somala Vamsi, 24, from Vijawada, reportedly stayed back at office after other staff left on Friday evening, as they had some pending work. Before leaving the office, a quarrel broke out between them over switching off the lights and Vamsi hit Babu with a dumbbell, killing him on the spot. Vamsi then went to the police station and surrendered.

The company handles film shoots and Babu worked as its manager. It employs around six people and a few of them live in Nayandahalli. When Vamsi started switching off the lights, Babu got upset and took him to task. This led to an altercation. Later, Babu went to his house, which is attached to the office.

Vamsi, who followed him, took chilli powder from the kitchen and threw it on Babu's face. He then picked up a dumbbell and hit Babu's forehead. When Babu fell unconscious, Vamsi panicked and called another colleague, who rushed to the house. They called the 108 ambulance service to shift Babu to hospital. When the ambulance staff confirmed Babu's death, Vamsi went to the police station and surrendered, the police said.

ONE MORE HELD IN SABARIMALA GOLD THEFT CASE

T'puram: The Special Investigation Team probing the Sabarimala gold theft case arrested D Sudheesh Kumar, the third accused in the Sabarimala gold theft case, on Saturday morning. He was under scanner since the first accused was taken into custody. The SIT questioned Sudheesh Kumar based on information obtained from the first and second accused, Unnikrishnan Potti and Murari Babu. According to sources, it was Murari Babu who had reported that the dwarapalaka sculptures at Sabarimala were copper plates, not gold-plated. When the misleading report was prepared, Sudheesh Kumar, turned a blind eye. Both officials were complicit in facilitating the transfer of the gold plates to Potti, said sources. **ENS**

Pinarayi declares Kerala 'free of extreme poverty', Oppn calls it 'fraud'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'puram

MARKING a major milestone in the state's history, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday declared Kerala free of extreme poverty, thus becoming the first state in the country to achieve the milestone.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister made a formal announcement that Kerala has eradicated extreme poverty, in a special session of the legislative assembly convened on the occasion of 'Kerala Piravi'. Meanwhile, the Opposition UDF, which boycotted the special session, termed the declaration a mere eyewash.

The CM made the public declaration at a star-studded event attended by actor Mammootty and cabinet, at Central Stadium in the state capital. Listing out the achievements of the state government, the Pinarayi termed it the rise of a 'Nava Keralam' and the 'real Kerala Story'.

Pinarayi said the survivors of the Wayanad landslides will get new houses by next January. Stating that Kerala's development was at a frozen state when he took over in 2016, the CM said the Left-led government increased the welfare pensions.

Criticising the Union government for cutting the funds short following the Wayanad landslides, he said the state has eradicated extreme poverty when the Centre is challenging the federal structure of the country. "The situation in Kerala is special - here, wealth is not held by only a few people," he said. Responding to the Opposition's allegations that the declaration was a fake claim, the CM termed it "an unfortunate remark", and said all cabinet ministers were present when the move to bring the last family out of the extreme poverty belt was initiated.

"After that family from Ernakulam was brought out of the belt, I was informed that a meeting in this regard was even conducted in that district," he said.

Actor Mammooty with Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan at Central stadium, Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday

Man held for raping minor daughter in Mangaluru

Mangaluru: A minor girl has accused her father of allegedly sexually assaulting and impregnating her. The complaint filed by the victim's uncle with the Women's police station at Puttur alleged that the victim's father, who resides in Bengaluru, sexually assaulted her twice five months ago. Based on the complaint, the accused was arrested and has been sent to judicial custody. The matter came to light a few days ago after the girl was taken to a hospital over bodily changes, and after the victim had also complained that her periods had stopped. After the scanning and blood tests, the doctor confirmed that the girl was five months pregnant. Upon counselling the girl revealed that her father had sexually assaulted her five months ago when she was sleeping in the house. He had raped her on another occasion also. The complaint said that the father allegedly threatened the victim with dire consequences if she revealed it to anyone.

Decision on SSLC, PU passing marks evokes mixed reactions

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Primary and Secondary Education Department's new decision on passing marks for SSLC and PU students has evoked mixed reactions.

The Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), MLC Puttanna and other stakeholders have extended their support to the department's decision. Primary and Secondary Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa recently announced that the passing marks for SSLC students will be reduced from 35 to 30 and for PU students from 35 to 33. However, this decision drew flak and Chairman of the legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti wrote to the education minister opposing it.

Puttanna told reporters on Friday that students, educationists and other stakeholders had been protesting against the old system of awarding marks for SSLC and PU students, stating that it was stricter than that of CBSE and ICSE schools. The recent decision of the department will go a long way in helping students in the state.

Shashikumar, president of KAMS, said that his organisation will support the decision. It will help prevent students discontinuing studies if they fail in SSLC and PU exams. It will not impact the quality of higher education. What needs to be improved is primary education -- teaching methods and school infrastructure. On Horatti opposing the move, Shashikumar said when it was proposed, he supported it.

EXPRESS READ

27 booked for spreading false claims on Kurnool

Kurnool: Kurnool Police have registered cases against 27 individuals for allegedly spreading false information online about the October 24 bus accident near Chinnatekuru that claimed 19 lives. Complainant Perapogu Venumula accused several YSR Congress Party social media accounts and spokespersons, including Shyamala, CV Reddy and Kanduri Gopikishta, of posting misleading content that blamed drunken passengers in belt pockets.

Kerala youth held for 'hacking' sensitive data

Pathanamthitta: A 23-year-old youth was taken into custody by the police for allegedly hacking sensitive data accessible only to law enforcement and telecom agencies, officials said on Saturday. According to sources, following a tip-off, the Pathanamthitta Cyber Police detained Joel V Jose, a resident of Kottamukal in Adoor, on Friday.

ISRO to launch heaviest communication satellite for naval operations today

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

ISRO's fifth operational flight of Launch Vehicle Mark-3 -- LVM3-M5 -- will launch its heaviest communication satellite CMS-03 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 5.26 pm on Sunday.

The multi-band communication satellite, weighing 4410kg, also called as GSAT-7R, will provide services over a wide oceanic region, including the Indian landmass.

With this launch, India aims to enhance its maritime connectivity, boost disaster response capabilities, even in remote coastal locations, and reinforce its space independence in launching heavy indigenously made satellites. It has been specially designed for the Indian Navy and will improve the secured communication for the defence sector.

ISRO signed the Rs 1,589-crore contract to develop the satellite for the navy in 2019. This satellite will replace GSAT-7 Rukmini, which was launched in 2013.

ISRO scientists said this is the heaviest communication satellite that will be launched to the Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) from India.

The scientists said they had launched satellites heavier than this earlier. Communication satellite GSAT-11, which weighed 5,854kg, was launched from French Guiana in 2018.

They said this mission is important as it will showcase India's growing prowess in high capacity space communications targeted at improving communication coverage across India and surrounding oceanic regions.

Terming LVM3, which is also known as GSLV Mk-3, the most powerful rocket, the scientists said it is capable of carrying even heavier payloads beyond GTO. LVM3-M5 is known for its reliability and capacity and is crucial for many global satellite communication missions planned ahead.

Doctors flag alarming rise in breast cancer among women in their 20s & 30s

GAYATHRI M KURUP @ Bengaluru

AS Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) comes to an end, oncologists across Bengaluru are flagging a worrying and consistent trend -- breast cancer increasingly affecting younger women, often at more advanced stages. What was once a disease largely diagnosed after 50 is now appearing with unsettling frequency in women in their 20s, early 30s and 40s.

"We are seeing a clear age shift. The youngest patient I have treated for breast cancer is just 21," said Dr Neha Maddipati, Breast Specialist and Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon at Trilife Hospital. Younger women, she says, often ignore early symptoms or assume a lump cannot be cancer, leading to late detection. "In India, almost 60 per cent of patients still present in Stage 3 or 4."

Dr Jayanti Thumsi, Lead & Robotic Surgeon, Breast Oncology at Apollo Cancer Centres, Bengaluru, confirms the shift. "About 48 per cent of breast cancer cases we see today are in women under 50. We are even treating pregnant women safely with certain chemotherapy drugs," she said. With treatment advancements improving survival, early detection becomes critical — but continues to be a gap.

Doctors also point to significant lifestyle and reproductive changes behind the surge. According to Dr Rohit Kumar C, Consultant in Surgical Oncology and Robotic Surgery at Aster Whitefield, modern urban living is a major factor. "Sedentary lifestyles, obesity, processed foods, alcohol, stress, early puberty, delayed marriages, postponed pregnancies and reduced breastfeeding all contribute to increased risk," he said. Hormone-mimicking chemicals in beauty and personal care products add to the burden.

Beyond the rise itself, doctors say the change reflects deeper shifts in women's lives today. "We are seeing increasing hormonal imbalances because of irregular routines and limited rest. Early puberty, delayed pregnancies, and long working hours add to the strain," Dr Rohit said, calling chronic stress and lifestyle disruption "one of the strongest drivers" behind the rise in younger patients. While seen more among women, doctors also warn about breast cancer among men nowadays. "Men tend to ignore a breast lump, assuming they cannot get breast cancer and when they finally come in, it is usually already advanced," said Dr Maddipati. While most cases are lifestyle-linked, doctors emphasise that 5-15 per cent are hereditary, caused by abnormal inherited gene mutations. With genetic testing now widely available and affordable, experts encourage testing for individuals with a strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer. Doctors strongly reiterate that breast cancer is curable when detected early. They urge women to perform monthly self-breast exams from age 18, seek prompt medical help for any change, and undergo annual mammograms after 40. "The biggest myth is that young women don't get breast cancer. They can and increasingly, they are," Dr Maddipati concluded.

We are seeing increasing hormonal imbalances because of irregular routines and limited rest. Early puberty, delayed pregnancies, and long working hours add to the strain

Dr Rohit Kumar, Consultant in Surgical Oncology and Robotic Surgery

In the old wars, there was the option of calling for an armistice. In today's wars, there are no dominant powers who can decide to end it. Today's urban wars are wars with no end in sight

Saskia Sassen

TRICK OR TREAT: THE ECONOMICS OF K-SHAPED POLITICS

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

THE world is not driven by greed. It's driven by envy. Legendary investor Charlie Munger wagered this view on the causes of unhappiness. While one may argue about the sequence of terms, there is little doubt that one leads to the other. As markets spiral and investors wrestle riddles in the K-shaped economy, a few observations.

Like the market value of Nvidia hit $5 trillion on Wednesday. It was 9.30 am in New York, around 1.30 pm in London, 7 pm in Mumbai and 9.30 pm in Beijing. Global investors and C-suites across time zones were agog on the meteoric rise of Jenson Huang's baby. Founded in 1993, the gaming chipmaker hit the $100-billion mark in 2017 as it emerged in a new AI avatar.

In 2023, Nvidia was the seventh company to hit a value of $1 trillion. In 2025, it is the first company to hit the $5-trillion mark. The pace was set by the arrival of ChatGPT. If it were a nation, Nvidia would rank third in the world alongside Germany. Its value is higher than the market cap of the French stock market or 500 largest Indian companies. It is worth two Amazons or 25 Disneys, and worth more than the top 100 billionaires on the Bloomberg list.

On Wednesday, the US Federal Reserve cut rates by 0.25 percent. Fed Chair Jerome Powell struggled to justify the cut especially since inflation was nudging 3 percent. Powell also dodged the question on who benefits from the cuts. Indices went up and earnings reports show luxury goods makers and banks did well while auto lenders reported stress. A JP Morgan note titled 'A Tale of Two Recoveries' underlined a "significant bifurcation" in income groups on perceptions about the economy. Indeed, data from the Fed shows the top 0.1 percent of populace own equity and funds worth $12.2 trillion, while the bottom 50 percent own $0.54 trillion.

Like it is unclear if the frenzy in global marts is being driven by optimism, greed, or envy. The most bullish forecast placed the S&P500 at 7,100 by the end of the year; the index has already hit 6,900. While the index hits new highs, over 200 scrips show negative returns over a year. Investors wading in a swamp of acronyms ranging from YOLO to FOMO wonder if the new highs are a trick or a treat, as the chatter-cloud about the AI bubble—including a warning from the Bank of England—bulges bigger.

The data merits attention. The Magnificent7 tech stocks are worth $21 trillion, and S&P493 is a new metric to analyse the K-shaped market. Be that as it may, 11 trillion-dollar companies now account for $24 trillion out of S&P 500's total market cap of $57 trillion. Nvidia's market cap is six times that of the world's biggest bank, J P Morgan. The S&P500 has a price-earnings ratio of 28.47 and the market is paying 40 times earnings for Mag7 stocks, hoping for riches.

Like the market is wondering if this time is indeed different. It has been argued that unlike in the 1990s' bubble, tech companies are cash-rich and asset-light today. However, the $1 trillion of circular deals between chipmakers and users, Meta's debt issue of $30 billion, and fears of a $200-billion flood of AI bonds have raised flags. How sure can the investor be that there isn't another DeepSeek from China, India, or the UAE? With over $1.2-trillion debt tied to AI, Wall Street is pondering whether the pain will show up in the debt market or equity.

The rise in global indices is a curious jigsaw. Indices in richer economies growing slower are delivering higher returns. GDP growth in the US in 2025 is expected at 1.8 percent, and the S&P 500 is up 16.3 percent in the year to date. Japan, as per its central bank, is forecast to grow 0.7 percent, and the Nikkei225 is up 31.3 percent. The ECB forecast GDP growth in the Eurozone at 1.2 percent, while the German DAX is up 20 percent and French CAC 9.8 percent. The UK is expected to grow at 1.3 percent and the FTSE is up 17 percent. India is the fastest growing major economy, expected to notch up 6.6 percent, and the Nifty50 is up only 8.8 percent.

Like the volatility in gold (and silver) prices is riveting the attention of global investors. A raging debate is on as to why the price yo-yoed between $4,250 and $3,800. The lazy conclusion that gold prices reflect the rise and fall in global tensions is tempting. But what has changed materially? Neither the geopolitical nor tariff issues are resolved. A plausible reason is the rise from $3,000 to $4,200 was fuelled by a retail rush. Effectively, the whales sold off while the minnows were rushing in, and maybe re-entering. Talk about K-shaped losses!

Finally, the concentration of wealth, resources, and attention has consequences. In New York, the capital of capitalism and home to Wall Street, Zohran Mamdani is leading opinion polls to be mayor on the promise of a rent freeze and cheaper grocery. The US government shutdown is about cuts to healthcare. In the UK, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachael Reeves plans to tax the homes of the ultra-rich. Rage against immigration is the new constituency uniting the left and the right. Angst-and-anger is a time-tested mantra courted by the parish of populists. K-shaped economies lead to K-shaped politics.

TRUMP'S ASIA BLITZ TARGETS INDIA

POWER & POLITICS

PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on X @PrabhuChawla

IN the sweltering haze of Kuala Lumpur's October sun, Donald Trump descended like a colossus onto the tarmac. His trademark red tie flapped defiantly against the tropical breeze, instantly commandeering the stage of global diplomacy. Fist-pumping with unbridled vigour, he joined traditional dancers in a spontaneous whirl. He transformed a routine arrival into a spectacle of American bravado that went viral across continents. It also symbolised his unapologetic dominance in a region long shadowed by subtler powers.

This was no mere courtesy call. It was Trump thundering back onto the world arena, asserting his role as the unchallenged architect of economic fortresses and strategic bulwarks. It was curated to dictate terms to allies and adversaries alike during a whirlwind tour that spanned Malaysia, Japan, and South Korea. He blended bombastic rhetoric with billion-dollar deals, all while subtly reshaping alliances on Asia's volatile chessboard. Trump's agenda was pulsed with the rhythm of revival. It aimed to etch his vision of a unipolar world order where the US orchestrates the flows of trade, security, and influence. Kicking off in Malaysia at the 47th ASEAN Summit, he wasn't just conspicuously present. He orchestrated.

By overseeing the signing of a historic peace pact between Cambodia and Thailand, he positioned himself as the indispensable peacemaker in a border dispute that had simmered for decades. "This is huge, folks—nobody else could have done it," he boomed at a press gaggle. It was a move that not only stabilised Southeast Asia's fringes, but also opened doors for American firms to tap into the region's untapped resources. In bilateral huddles with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Trump sealed a staggering $70-billion pledge for investment in US infrastructure and tech, framing it as a "win-win" that would create jobs back home while binding Kuala Lumpur closer to Washington's orbit.

Jetting to Tokyo next, Trump's presence loomed large over bilateral talks with Japan's newly-minted first-ever female Prime Minister, Sanae Takaichi. Trump pressed for deeper defence ties and resolutions on longstanding issues like North Korean abductions of Japanese citizens. In his usual boast during a press encounter, Trump declared: "Japan is a great ally, but we need fair deals—no more free rides." These statements weren't mere platitudes. They were calculated to reinforce the US's strategic architecture, signalling to Tokyo that under his watch, America would anchor the Indo-Pacific against rising threats.

AP

The crescendo came in South Korea, at the APEC Summit in Busan, where Trump met Chinese President Xi Jinping in a high-stakes sidebar that averted an impending tariff war. Trump posted on social media: "We had an amazing talk—China respects strength." He also disclosed a framework agreement that dialled back from the threatened 100 percent tariffs on Chinese goods in exchange for commitments on intellectual property and market access.

Later, he signed bilateral engagements with South Korean President Lee Jae-myung which yielded an $18.8-billion deal for US exports. But in Korea, the focus sharpened on denuclearisation, with Trump expressing openness to meeting North Korea's Kim Jong-un, harking back to his earlier 'fire and fury' diplomacy that he now recast as prescient peacemaking. Yet, this peacemaker persona rings hollow when juxtaposed with his actions back home. While boasting about stopping wars and fostering global stability, Trump announced the resumption of US nuclear weapons testing after decades of moratorium, a provocative step that escalates tensions rather than diffusing them.

His utterances, delivered with his signature flair, were designed to project Trump as the global director who mended fences with economic giants while fortifying US leverage in strategic hotspots. However, beneath this blitz of bonhomie and bargains lurked a subtler narrative. Critics thought it was a discreet diplomatic manoeuvre to diminish India's stature in the Asian theatre. For the first time in years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi opted out of the ASEAN-India Summit, a glaring absence that amplified whispers of strained ties and strategic sidelining.

Modi, a powerful voice of the Global South, has championed a multipolar world order. He has worked hard to rally developing nations against perceived Western hegemony through forums like BRICS and the G20. His 'blowing hot and cold' approach of cosying up to Russia amid Ukraine tensions while courting Western tech investments has positioned India as a pivotal swing state, with its economy roaring as the world's fastest-growing and fourth-largest.

Driven by personal ego, Trump's tour was designed to eclipse this ascent. It was a crude exercise to bypass New Delhi in favour of direct engagements with India's neighbours and rivals. Trump's rhetoric on Modi revealed this undercurrent of tension wrapped in flattery. Repeatedly dubbing Modi his "dear friend" and a "tough guy," Trump has embarrassed the Indian leader by boastfully claiming credit for averting an Indo-Pakistani war, a narrative India has never corroborated.

Trump softened tariffs on South Korea and Japan. He inked pacts that eased barriers on autos and electronics, and even thawed relations with China through phased reductions. But India faced no such reprieve. US duties on Indian steel, aluminium, and textiles remain stubbornly high. "India's a great country, but they hit us hard—we hit back harder," he remarked in Tokyo, underscoring a policy that punishes India's export ambitions while rewarding others.

This selective benevolence extended to Southeast Asia, where Trump announced trade frameworks with Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam in exchange for tariff exemptions on American exports. But it conspicuously omitted India. Instead, Trump's strategy appeared to encircle India, bolstering ties with nations wary of New Delhi's growing influence, such as Vietnam amid South China Sea disputes.

Ironically, despite Trump's unpredictable, irrational, and bullish conduct marked by impromptu dances, off-script rants, and a history of abrupt policy u-turns, Asian capitals unrolled red carpets with fervour, indulging him beyond measure. Japan bestowed a ceremonial gold medal and crown, symbols of imperial honour rarely granted, while South Korea presented bespoke gifts evoking shared military history, including a custom hanbok embroidered with eagles. These gestures reflected not just protocol but a pragmatic calculus.

Trump's maverick style delivers tangible wins, from peace pacts to investment influxes, making him a gamble worth taking in a world of uncertainties. Lavish welcomes extended to him underscore Asia's enduring fascination with American power. In this grand endeavour to etch his legacy, Trump weaves nationalism into every thread, proclaiming America First while donning the mantle of global peacemaker. Reaching into Asia, a realm relatively untouched by his first-term adventurism focused on West Asia and Europe, he now pivots eastward with zeal.

But is this odyssey aimed at isolating India, the behemoth economy surging with innovation and demographic might? By minimising Modi's role, Trump risks overplaying his hand. India's rise, fuelled by digital revolutions and green energy leaps, defies containment. Its partnerships span Moscow to Washington, rendering any attempt to sideline it a fleeting illusion. Trump may maximise his maverick identity through these assertive forays. But if they come at the expense of alienating the world's fastest-growing powerhouse, he is bound suffer setback. In the multipolar dawn Modi heralds, Trump's unipolar dreams may fracture against the resilient rise of the Global South.

THE LONG GAME OF BELONGING IN A CITY

OPINION

ANURADHA GOYAL
Author and founder of IndiTales
Follow her on X @anuradhagoyal

WHO does the city really belong to? Those who are born there, those who made it their home, those who migrate there to work and build a life, or those who work for it?

Recently, I spent a few weekend mornings collaborating with The Ugly Indian team in cleaning a major traffic junction and footpaths close to my home in Bengaluru. Besides the aesthetic and hygienic changes around me, it made me meet fellow citymates who care enough to get their hands dirty on a morning they could have lazed around. As novices, we learnt to hold paint brushes, struggled to draw a straight line, but eventually learnt to keep the hand steady. We played with different colours as we painted the pillars and sidewalks once they were cleaned.

Paurkarmikas or sanitation workers created some beautiful rangolis on the traffic island that was filled with debris and garbage just three days earlier and was now like a small garden where you could meet people as the traffic buzzed past. A sense of accomplishment, relief, confidence, joy and can-do flourished as we exchanged names and greetings.

I ended up meeting old friends, neighbours I knew but never spoke to, neighbours I did not know, the wonderful team of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and volunteers who had come from other parts of the city to clean my area. I stood there with a sense of gratitude for all the volunteers, a sense of ownership for my neighbourhood and my city, as well as a shared sense of belongingness to the place and the people.

The workers from BBMP and other authorities like the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation did the heavy lifting in clearing the garbage, fixing the footpaths, and dealing with hanging wires. We primarily lent a helping hand, mostly by cleaning and painting. Team effort, as the corporate world would call it. I would say it was a process of owning the place, reclaiming it from the garbage dump that tends to keep increasing like the Raktabeej *asura*.

The exercise made me think about being angry at the deteriorating condition of our civic spaces. We are always ready to blame the civic authorities. But how many times do we try to engage with them to get the work going? Isn't our apathy, and in a subtle way our acceptance to live with filth, an input for those who let it be?

Cleaning and beautifying your city in a group can give you a sense of belonging. It can also create a space for civic authorities and citizens to come together in an informal setting

The people manning the civic authorities may be dealing with a hierarchy of priorities and choose to attend to those where the citizens are actively engaged. Think about two toddlers: one of them making an effort to get up and walk, falling but getting up again, and the other simply expecting someone to lend a hand and make him walk. Which one are we more likely to help? The first one. Every religion tells us that god helps those who help themselves. So it is in our social setting.

Big cities have a migrant population that comes primarily for work. It takes years to make a city your new home and to be emotionally connected with it enough to care. Jobs come with their own demands on time, which does not allow one to engage socially with the surroundings. However, if this is the surrounding that one has chosen to be a part of, one must make some effort to make it better, at least by not making it worse.

The deep trench between citizens and civic authorities also needs to be narrowed and bridged with periodic events that bring them together in an informal setting allowing a free flow of information, expectations, plans, and challenges. Our cities are designed to not allow serendipitous interactions between authorities and common citizens. So, we need to create those opportunities through informal public events. Creative ideas for cleaning up will come at the intersection of public service and active citizen participation. It is easy to clean it once, but sustaining it is the bigger challenge, somewhat like weight loss.

"A city belongs to those who care for it," said an author who wrote a book on Delhi. His words have stayed with me.

QUOTE CORNER

I'll be very vulnerable here because I know someone watching this might be going through the same thing... I was going through a lot of anxiety at the start of the tournament... I used to call my mum and cry, let it all out, because when you're going through anxiety, you just feel numb. You don't know what to do. In this time, my mum and my dad supported me a lot.

Jemimah Rodrigues after scoring 127 to beat Australia in the World Cup

The humanities as a whole embody the luxury goods of pure research—knowledge for self-cultivation, exploration, exhilaration, and conscience.

Profs Arjun Appadurai and **Sheldon Pollock** on University of Chicago's decision to freeze PhD admissions in arts and humanities

K-pop's shiny success is proof that cultural diversity and creativity are the greatest human potential. Of course, no borders, no limitations.

R M of South Korean band BTS at the APEC CEO Summit in Seoul

MAILBAG

WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Delayed dues

Ref: *Pay panel must keep an eye on welfare, infrastructure needs* (Nov 1). The central government announced the 8th Pay Commission ahead of the Delhi elections and formed it just before the Bihar polls. The nearly-year-long delay will be followed by the 18-month timeline for the commission's report. So employees may have to wait until late 2027 for the revised wages. Meanwhile, the government's terms of reference are restrictive, citing 'economic conditions and prudence'—a stark contrast to its generosity towards corporate giants who receive tax breaks and benefits at significant national cost.

S Padmanabha Mallya, Kochi

Bazaar nation

Ref: *Grieving father alleges bribes demanded at every step after daughter's death* (Oct 30). When humanity's final breath fades, bribery erupts into a celebration more monstrous than crime. This Bengaluru tragedy stains society's soul forever. As in a father's lap lay his only daughter's cold body, the system's greed sprang alive. In India's Silicon Valley, the ambulance driver, post-mortem experts, the municipal clerk issuing the death certificate—everyone sought 'special fees'. Have we sunk so low that death is a note-counting machine? If yes, the nation is a bazaar. Wake up—or sleep forever.

R K Jain Arijeet, Barwani

Spotting potholes

Ref: *Chennai motorists pay to use NH stretch, but get bumpy ride* (Oct 30). The National Highways Authority of India is reportedly considering a scheme to 'Spot a pothole on NH and win Rs 500' from January 2026. The proposal is aimed at pushing government and private agencies engaged in constructing and maintaining highways to keep them pothole-free. The reward would be recovered from the contractors. If the Greater Chennai Corporation were to roll out a similar drive, many road users in the city would become rich overnight!

P G Menon, Chennai

Hasina's rights

Ref: *Hasina rules out return while new government in power* (Oct 30). India gave asylum to Sheikh Hasina when she fled her country after allegedly committing mass murders. Bangladesh's war crimes court has concluded proceedings against her on charges of crimes against humanity. Now, the exiled Hasina has called for a boycott of the proposed election. It is a wonder how India has allowed Hasina to stay on. What right she has got to declare that she will stay permanently in India? Will India tolerate a situation like this if an Indian exiled in another country challenges our decisions?

Tharcius Fernando, Chennai

Pub learning

Ref: *Why nerds are herding to pubs* (Nov 1). The opportunity to expand one's mind in a fun setting is a novel idea that has to be welcomed. It can bring together learned teachers and lay persons with a thirst for knowledge who are outside the academic environment.

N Rama Rao, email

Nuclear reversal

Ref: *Trump's nuclear test order stirs tensions* (Oct 31). Trump has alarmed the world by saying the US is going to resume nuclear tests and bring back the Cold War era. Notwithstanding that such tests were last conducted 20 years back, Trump wants the world to go back to that mad age. He should stop attending summits and issuing notices. This guy has become a public nuisance and should be carted off in a garbage truck as soon as possible.

Philip Alexander, Bengaluru

Rollercoaster diplomacy

Ref: *Art of recalibration* (Oct 31). There is nothing much to read in the Trump-Xi meet except for headlines that stay for a short period. The other day, Trump was showering admiration for India's prime minister, but was cautious on talking about the punishing tax cuts. Trump's is a 'rollercoaster diplomacy'. Instead of reacting to every utterance of his, it's better for India to think of long-term plans on the diplomatic plane.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099.
Bengaluru. Vol. 26, No. 44 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Asaduddin Owaisi @asadowaisi
One who does not understand the pain and suffering of the common people has no right to sit on the throne of power.

Abhishek Banerjee @abhishekaitc
If the BJP truly believes in the nation's integrity, I challenge @BJP4India @JPNadda to suspend this MP (Jagannath Sarkar) immediately.

Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju
On this very special Statehood Days, I extend my warmest regards to my brothers & sisters in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana & Chhattisgarh.

End of Maoist violence soon: PM

Says laws should be made to push reforms, make lives easier and remove govt meddling

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the number of districts affected by Maoist terror has dwindled from 125 to just three in the last 11 years, and the day is not far when the country will be freed from the Naxal menace.

In his address at the 'Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav' in Nava Raipur to mark the 25th anniversary celebration of the formation of Chhattisgarh, Modi hailed the state's growth journey and said the seed sown 25 years ago has grown into a 'vat vriksh' (banyan tree) of development.

The PM said he was deeply satisfied that Chhattisgarh was breaking free from the clutches of Naxal violence. "For 50 years, the people here suffered unbearable pain (because of Naxalism). Those who show off the Constitution and shed crocodile tears in the name of social justice have committed injustice to you for vested interests," he said.

The PM laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹14,260 crore covering key sectors such as roads, industry, healthcare and energy. Speaking after inaugurating the new Chhattisgarh Assembly building, the PM said the state is set to play a significant role in achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047 by inspiring other states to innovate and contribute in the mission.

PM Modi during the 'Chhattisgarh Rajat Mahotsav'in Nava Raipur on Saturday | PTI

"Legislative Assembly is not just a place to make laws but a vibrant centre for shaping the state's destiny. Every concept and rule coming forth from here should reflect the spirit of public service, the resolve for development and the belief in taking India to new heights while remaining connected to its heritage," he opined.

He conveyed that the laws should be made to accelerate reforms, make people's lives easier and remove needless government interference or unnecessary influence. Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla who also attended the occasion, praised the state Assembly for upholding high traditions of dignity, dialogue and democratic practices.

Modi unveiled a statue of former PM late AB Vajpayee on the premises.

Recalling his time as a party worker, PM Modi said he spent considerable time in Chhattisgarh and learnt a lot and he has been a witness to every moment of the state's transformation.

The PM inaugurated the first of its kind Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial & Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum at Nava Raipur.

Earlier, he received a warm welcome by the enthusiastic crowd during the 'Road Show' on his arrival.

INITIATIVES OF THE DAY

- New Legislative Assembly building
- 'Dil Ki Baat' programme, interacted with children successfully treated of heart diseases
- India's largest Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum
- Brahma Kumaris' 'Shanti Shikhar'—centre for spiritual learning
- 12 new 'Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme' (SVEP)

JEMIMAH RODRIGUES

PEAKS TO CLIMB, FLAWS TO TRIM, ROLES TO CEMENT

GOMESH S

WHEN Jemimah Rodrigues finally took off her helmet on Thursday evening, the applause had not yet settled, and the scoreboard was still catching up. A semifinal hundred against Australia at a World Cup is achievement enough in Indian cricket. But the moment that lingered came after the runs. Rodrigues' voice wavered, her eyes filled, and she spoke not of strike-rates or match situations but of anxiety, sleepless nights, and a month spent trying to stop doubt from swallowing her game.

In a broadcast era built on slogans of invincibility, here was an elite athlete stopping mid-sentence to steady herself.

Rodrigues' tearful acknowledgement of strain was not a performance or a plea. It was, in the vocabulary of sport, a rare straight answer. She had come into this World Cup believing she was ready; the early games—two ducks, two modest scores, a place lost in the XI—tested that belief. The return against New Zealand, a half-century at No. 3, was steadying rather than spectacular. And then came the semifinal, where she played an innings the Indian team desperately needed — composed, stubborn in parts, fluent when the moment allowed.

It was the cricketing maturity that stood out: judgement in pacing, calm in selection, ownership of the chase. That she followed it with candour about fear and fatigue made the evening feel larger than the scoreline.

To understand how and why Rodrigues arrived here, it is worth winding back to February 2022. She did not make the ODI World Cup squad — a surprise, given her early elevation and reputation as a player built for marquee events. The call stung, she has admitted as much since. But what followed sharpened the edge. In a digital climate where criticism is often unmoored from fact or proportion, her personality became ammunition: her music, her cheerfulness, her public faith, even her tendency to interact lightly with fans. To large parts of the internet, a smile became evidence of distraction; a song looked like unseriousness.

Rodrigues met that noise the only way sports people usually can: by training when no one was watching. She returned to batting work with Prashant Shetty, focused on finishing skills, and paid close attention to mental preparation — not as crisis management, but as part of her toolkit. The improvements were incremental: a more assured T20I stretch, a calmer presence at No. 5 in ODIs, and a tactical understanding of roles in a side that itself is evolving.

NEWSMAKER

MANDAR PARDIKAR

This World Cup, however, reminded her — and the selectors, and us — that sport's arc is rarely a straight line. Form dipped, confidence wavered, and the tournament nearly slipped past. Rodrigues, 24 and experienced enough to know how quickly opportunities vanish, treated her return to the XI not as a comeback moment but as a job to be done. She walked in at No. 3 against New Zealand and built her innings the long way. That earned her the semifinal — and what she made of it earned her this column.

The hundred against Australia did not have the swagger of youthful promise. It had the composure of someone who has examined talent and limitation in equal measure and decided to trust the work. It is easy to forget that Rodrigues, for all her early headlines, is still in the apprenticeship years of international cricket. There are peaks to climb yet, flaws to trim, roles to cement. But the innings spoke for her professionalism at a time when women's cricket in India sits in transition — raised expectations, commercial stakes, and scrutiny that can be disproportionate to resources and support systems.

The moment of emotion afterwards was not weakness; it was context.

Indian sport, historically, has preferred its vulnerability in memoirs and biopics, not live on television. Rodrigues offered it in real time. And in doing so, she did something subtle but significant for women in high-pressure sport: she made space for honesty without surrendering ambition. Her line — "it's okay to ask for help" — was not a campaign slogan; it was reportage from the frontlines of competition.

Sunday will demand composure again. A final invites no mercy, and the scoreboard will not be sentimental. Rodrigues knows this. She has been the prodigy fast-tracked, the player dropped, the athlete trolled, the teammate trusted again. She understands that cricket at this level is not fair, only unforgiving. Which is why the significance of Thursday's innings lies not merely in the result but in its making — in the decision to stay still when the game quickened, in the willingness to take singles when eyes sought boundaries, in the courage to acknowledge that form is earned, not destined.

A decade ago, she watched Sachin Tendulkar lifted by a nation and vowed to be part of such a moment. In 2017, she stood outside Mumbai airport greeting a beaten Indian team and promised herself another path. In 2022, she sat outside a squad list and rebuilt. And this week, she showed what growth looks like in real time — not with slogans, but with discipline, humility, and a century that sounded like resolve rather than redemption.

That is why Jemimah Rodrigues is our newsmaker. For the runs, yes. But equally for the clarity that even in elite sport, composure and candour can occupy the same crease — and win.

Moscow says will abide by Indian laws

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Russian Embassy in India has said it is maintaining "close contact with the competent Indian authorities" regarding the case of Russian national Victoria Basu, currently involved in a custody battle with her estranged husband, Saikat Basu.

In an official statement, the embassy termed 'certain' media reports as 'speculative' and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting the rights and legitimate interests of Russian citizens in line with Indian law. "The Embassy took note of a series of publications in some local media concerning the situation involving a Russian citizen, Victoria Basu. Regrettably, they do not correspond to reality and are based on speculations," an official statement said. It further said that "the embassy implements its priority duties to ensure and defend rights and legitimate interests of Russian citizens in full accordance with the Indian legislation. With regard to the matter of Ms Basu, we maintain close contact with the competent Indian authorities."

Saikat Basu has alleged he is unaware of his wife and child's whereabouts amid ongoing legal proceedings.

CUSTODY BATTLE

SC: Don't want to pass order which may hurt Russia ties

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

EXPRESSING serious concerns over a lack of concrete response from the Russian Embassy on the whereabouts of a Russian woman, who has reportedly fled to her country with her four-year-old child, the Supreme Court recently observed that it did not want to pass any order which could hurt India-Russia relationship.

The Supreme Court made these observations after being apprised by the Centre earlier that the woman, Victoria Basu, seems to have left the country with the minor through the Nepal border.

A two-judge bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi stressed the need for proper coordination as it pointed out to the diplomatic challenge for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Indian Embassy in Moscow and Russian Embassy in Delhi to find a resolution of the issue and take steps to restore the child to the custody of the apex court.

"We do not want to pass any order that impacts the relations between the two countries but it is also an important matter as it is about a kid. We don't want to hurt India-Russia ties, we are worried for the kid," said the top court.

We do not want to pass any order that impacts the relations between the two countries but it is also an important matter as it is about a kid. We don't want to hurt India-Russia ties, we are worried for the kid

Supreme Court bench

During the hearing on Friday, the bench was informed by the Centre that it is yet to receive some substantial assistance from the Russian Embassy in the matter about the whereabouts of Victoria.

It was hearing the plea of the father, Saikat Basu, who is fighting the custody battle of his child with the estranged Russian woman and alleged that she wasn't complying with the court's order of custody of the minor. The man claimed that the whereabouts of the woman and his child were unknown.The court — after not being provided proper answer from the Centre — further granted the authorities two more weeks to reach out to Russian officials for assistance about the whereabouts of Victoria and the kid, as Justice Kant said, "But we hope it is not a case of child trafficking and he is not indulging in other exploitative activities in Russia."

On being asked about whereabouts of Victoria, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Delhi Police and Union, replied that she personally spoke to the Embassy officials but did not get much help.

30 countries to join major maritime info sharing workshop in Haryana

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AMID the growing importance of global maritime security, Gurugram will next week host the world's leading maritime experts for the Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) 2025, the Indian Navy's flagship event organised by the Information Fusion Centre, Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

The Navy confirmed on Saturday that representatives from 30 nations which includes members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the Djibouti Code of Conduct and Jeddah Amendment and BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal group of countries will attend the workshop from November 3 to 5.

The event aims to deepen regional collaboration and strengthen real-time information sharing across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

This third edition of MISW, themed "Enhancing Real-Time Coordination and Information Sharing Across the Indian Ocean Region," will feature thematic sessions for IORA, BIMSTEC, and DCoC/JA participants, with contributions from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), international information-sharing centres, and leading shipping companies.

TO DEEPEN REGIONAL TIES

- Maritime security practitioners from **30** countries participate
- Delegates to engage in collaborative response frameworks
- First MISW (Maritime Information Sharing Workshop) held in 2019
- Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), Gurugram, was inaugurated on December 22, 2018
- IFC-IOR currently headed by Captain Sachin Kumar Singh
- IFC-IOR hosts International Liasion Officers (ILOs) from 15 countries
- **57** other maritime security constructs and **25** partner countries collaborate with IFC-IOR

The sessions will include panel discussions to chart a roadmap for a resilient maritime information ecosystem, highlighting India's support in setting up National Maritime Information Sharing Centres (NMISCs) across partner nations. The workshop will culminate with a high-fidelity Table Top Exercise (TTX) simulating real-world maritime threats such as piracy, drug smuggling, and human trafficking, allowing delegates to practise coordinated response planning.

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, will inaugurate the event, which will feature a keynote address by Sushil Mansing Khopde, additional Director General of Shipping.

In line with India's maritime vision of "Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR)," the IFC-IOR, established in December 2018, has emerged as a key platform for enhancing safety and security in the IOR. Headed by Captain Sachin Kumar Singh, the Centre hosts International Liaison Officers from 15 countries and collaborates with 57 maritime security constructs and 25 partner nations. The Navy said the outcomes of MISW 2025 will help shape the future of the region's maritime information ecosystem, reinforcing India's role in fostering a secure, stable, and cooperative Indian Ocean.

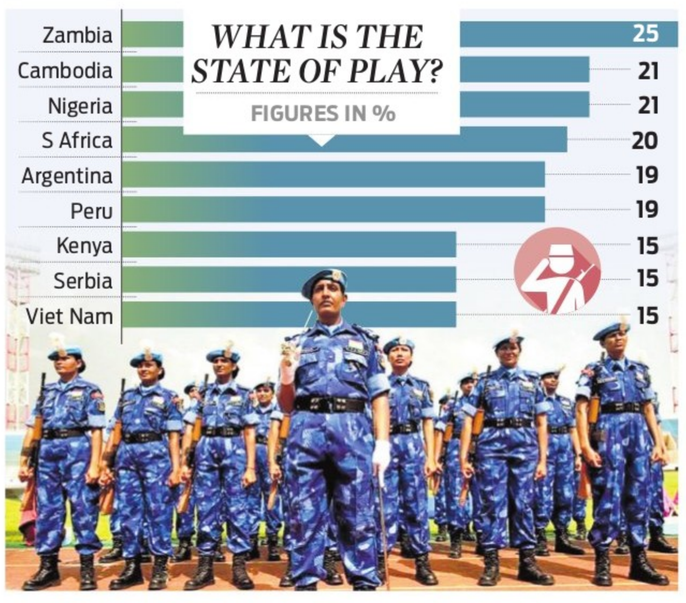
Share of women still low in global peace ops

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

A quarter century after the UN Security Council first linked gender equality to peace and security, women still make up less than one in ten soldiers and fewer than one in three civilian staff in multilateral peace operations. The 2025 report "Women in Multilateral Peace Operations: What Is the State of Play?" published by SIPRI, finds that while there are signs of progress, parity remains far off.

At the UN, women's participation among troops reached only 8.8% in June 2025, well short of the 12% target set for this year. Women account for 23% of military experts and staff officers, narrowly above the 2025 goal of 22%. Nepal remained the largest contributor of women soldiers, followed by Rwanda, Bangladesh and Ghana. Only one of eight UN force commanders was a woman.

Women now make up 31% of individual police officers, sustaining the UN's parity goal achieved in 2021. Among formed police units, women's share rose to 18%, above the 15% target. Smaller missions continue to show the highest proportions of women; half of the police in the Western Sahara mission (MINURSO) are women, compared with 17% in the much larger Central African Republic mission (MINUSCA).



The share of women among UN civilian personnel stands at roughly one-third, up by less than one percentage point from last year. Only the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon's office (UNSCOL) achieved gender parity, with women forming 56% of its staff. Seven of the 23 heads of peacekeeping and political missions were women, unchanged from 2024.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) showed the sharpest improvement. Women now form 45% of staff in its field operations, a rise of 7.8 percentage points—the largest annual gain in a decade. Five missions, including those in Ashgabat, Kosovo and Serbia, achieved near parity. A quarter of OSCE field heads are women, up 17 points from last year.

Progress in the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy missions has been slower. Women make up 24% of civilian personnel and only 8.8% in military operations. The number of women declined slightly due to the closure of two missions, though their proportion rose modestly. Only one EU mission, the border assistance mission in Rafah, reached the 40% target set under the renewed Civilian CSDP Compact. Three of 20 mission heads are women.

Across all organisations, leadership representation remains uneven. Women now lead one UN force, one-fifth of UN police components, nearly one-third of UN civilian operations, a quarter of OSCE missions, and 15% of EU operations. Despite steady policy commitments and gender strategies, structural barriers persist in recruitment, promotion and workplace safety.

The SIPRI report cautions that counting women is not enough. Many are still excluded from decision-making or deployed in junior roles. It calls for better working conditions, equitable career pathways, and a shift from numerical parity to meaningful participation.

SILENT PROTEST
The Maharashtra BJP held a 'silent protest' on Saturday to counter the Maha Vikas Aghadi's 'Satyacha Morcha' against irregularities in the voters' lists, alleging the spread of fake narratives.

1 DEAD AFTER SUV PLUNGES INTO DITCH IN UP'S SULTANPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	24	Mumbai	30	27
Bhopal	27	22	Panaji	30	24
Jaipur	29	17	Patna	28	21
Amritsar	29	16	Lucknow	30	18
Chennai	31	27	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	29	25	Imphal	27	21
Srinagar	20	05	Chandigarh	29	15

● Citing Rabri brother's 'high-handesness', home minister warns of fallout of Oppn win ● Cong MP says Delhi controls govt, Nitish has no say

It's 'sushasan' vs 'jungle raj': Shah

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that people would have to select between the "Modi-Nitish combine", which would develop Bihar, and the RJD-led opposition that would "bring back jungle raj" in the upcoming assembly elections.

Shah made these remarks while virtually addressing rallies in Gopalganj, Samastipur and Hajipur, where he could not reach due to bad weather. While addressing his rally in Gopalganj (the district of RJD chief Lalu Prasad) virtually, he referred to the alleged "high-handedness" of former Bihar CM Rabri Devi's estranged brother Sadhu Yadav and warned people that "jungle raj" would return if the opposition was voted to power.

Shah said that the people of Gopalganj had never voted for the RJD since 2002 and he was sure they would keep up the trend. "Nobody knows the misdeeds of Sadhu Yadav better than the people of Gopalganj," he added.

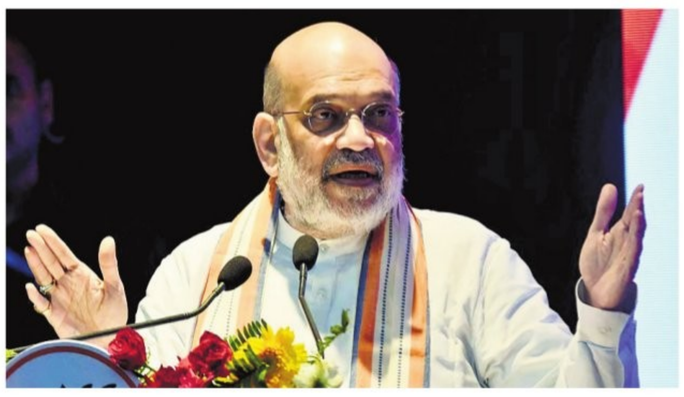
He also listed the names of the villages in central Bihar which had made headlines during the RJD rule for massacres as the bloody feuds had taken place between outlawed Naxal groups and private militias of upper caste landlords. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Nitish Kumar had deposited ₹10,000 into the accounts of 1.41 crore 'Jeevika Didis' recently. He also said that all the sugar mills in the state will be reopened in the next five years.

"There are two major things in the manifesto -- one for farmers and one for women, that I want to reiterate. Recently, Nitish Kumar and PM Modi have deposited ₹10,000 into the accounts of 1.41 crore 'Jeevika Didis'. They will send up to ₹2 lakh to all Jeevika Didi in different ways. Second, we give ₹6,000 per year to 27 lakh farmers of Bihar," he said.

At the rally in Samastipur, Shah attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of trying to protect infiltrators by leading the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Bihar. "Let Rahul Gandhi take out as many yatras as he pleases. Each and every infiltrator will be driven out of the country. The SIR was aimed at that and we welcome the Election Commission's decision to carry out the exercise across the country," he said.

The BJP leader also spoke of the Punaura Dham project in Sitamarhi district. The shrine situated at the birthplace of goddess Sita is being renovated at a cost of ₹85 crore "The work will be completed, positively, in two years," he asserted.

Addressing the rally at Hajipur, he slammed the Congress for repeatedly invoking Ambedkar's name, alleging that "the party has always insulted Baba Saheb. It denied him the Bharat Ratna while in power".



Being a Bihari now a matter of pride, says Nitish

Asserting that "being a Bihari is now a matter of pride", Bihar CM Nitish Kumar on Saturday urged people to once again vote for the NDA in the upcoming assembly polls for faster development of the state. In a video message uploaded by his party, JD(U), on social media on Saturday, Kumar claimed that he has not done anything for his family and the state's growth has always been his priority.

DECODE BIHAR POLL DECIDE

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at a public meeting in Begusarai Saturday | PTI

Priyanka hits campaign trail, tears into BJP's 'fake nationalism to win polls'

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

CONGRESS MP Priyanka Gandhi on Saturday alleged that the Narendra Modi government is controlling everything in Bihar as even Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has no say in the state's affairs.

Addressing an election meeting at Bachhwara in Begusarai district, Priyanka said, "You should not remain in confusion that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is running a double-engine government. There is no double engine. There is only one engine that is being run from Delhi. Not only you (people), even Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is not being heard. Nitish Ji is not getting respect.

Everything is being operated from the Centre."

She accused the NDA of propagating fake nationalism to win elections and divert people's attention, accusing the ruling alliance of "playing divisive politics". "What do top NDA leaders talk about when they come here? Either they talk about 20 years in the future or the past. They criticise Nehru ji, Indira

ji, but they do not raise issues like unemployment, migration," she added. "Let me also talk about the past. Who set up the factories? Who established IITs and IIMs? The answer is the Congress and Nehru ji," she said. The Congress MP alleged that the BJP resorted to "stealing votes" as they failed to distract people from real issues by "indulging in divisive politics".

"They first divided people, went to war, but couldn't divert attention from real issues, so they are now stealing votes. As many as 65 lakh names were deleted from the voter list through the special intensive revision (SIR) in Bihar, encroaching on people's rights," Priyanka said.

She said Bihar contributed so much to the country's growth, but the state "was not developed as it should have been," cautioning people not to get fooled by promises of the Bihar government. "The PM has handed over big PSUs to his corporate friends," she alleged. Taking a swipe at NDA over it manifesto launch, the Congress MP claimed that the ruling coalition had wrapped up its press conference in "just 26 seconds".

The Congress leader also charged the BJP with opposing the caste survey in Bihar,saying the report of which was published while the grand old party was sharing power in the state.

EC ORDERS TRANSFER OF PATNA SP OVER MOKAMA VIOLENCE

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday ordered the transfer of Patna Superintendent of Police (Rural) Vikram Sihag and disciplinary action against three other officials, two days after a violent clash between supporters of the JD(U) candidate Anant Singh and those of Jan Suraaj Party, including gangster-turned-politician Dular Chand Yadav in Mokama, leaving the latter dead.

The EC earlier sought a report on the incident from the Bihar DGP Vinay Kumar on Friday. In its instructions to the state chief electoral officer CEO) on Saturday, the EC ordered Sihag's transfer and directed that a panel of officers to select his substitute be sent urgently.

The poll panel also ordered the replacement of Mokama sub-divisional officer-cum-returning officer Chandan Kumar, sub-divisional police officer (Barh-1) Rakesh Kumar, and SDPO, Barh-, Abhishek Singh. The EC directed disciplinary proceedings against all three, and suspended Singh with immediate effect.

The ECI asked the CEO to submit a compliance report on its instructions by 12 noon on Sunday. The clash between two groups had taken place during election campaign near Tartar village under Goshwari police limits under Mokama assembly constituency on Thursday.

Dular Chand Yadav, a 75-year-old resident of Tartar village, was found dead when the police reached the site, according to officials. The postmortem was conducted under the supervision of a medical board and videographed.

Action against three officials ordered

The poll panel also ordered the replacement of Mokama sub-divisional officer-cum-returning officer Chandan Kumar, sub-divisional police officer (Barh-1) Rakesh Kumar, and SDPO, Barh-, Abhishek Singh. The EC directed disciplinary proceedings against all 3.

S'pore submits Zubeen's autopsy, toxicology reports

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Assam Police have received crucial post-mortem and toxicology reports of music icon Zubeen Garg from Singapore authorities.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma told media that the SIT probing Garg's death made substantial progress. "We got explosive materials. The Assam Police will unearth a larger picture and whatever brief I have got so far, the SIT is absolutely confident. The SIT said it will be able to give total justice to Zubeen Garg," Sarma said.

He stated that people, who doubted if the singer would get justice, would have to change their statement after the SIT filed the charge sheet any day before December 17.

"They will be compelled to say that the SIT has done a good job. I proved people wrong in the past. I will prove them wrong again this time around," the CM said. "We will bring every fact before the court as well as the public. When I am saying all these, you must understand how much confident I am," he said.

He concluded by saying that people would come to know about many "sad and painful" incidents which happened to Garg for years together. Special DGP (CID) and SIT chief Munna Prasad Gupta said apart from the autopsy and toxicology reports, some materials were also received.

Hosabale slams Kharge's RSS remarks

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

RASHTRIYA Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Saturday dismissed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's call to ban the RSS, saying that society has accepted the organisation as one that works for national unity, security, culture and development.

"Society has accepted the RSS as an organisation that works for the nation's unity, security, culture and development. It cannot be banned just because some leader wishes it," Hosabale said in Jabalpur on the concluding day of the RSS's three-day national executive meeting. Reacting to Kharge's remarks, that he favoured a ban on the organisation, comparing its ideology with "poison," Hosabale added: "The RSS was banned thrice in the past, but everyone knows what happened later. Those bans didn't hold water. Politicians demanding it again should learn from past experiences." Kharge had also cited that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had earlier prohibited government employees from joining RSS activities.

Responding to questions on the RSS-BJP relationship post-2014, Hosabale said: "We've clarified our stand thousands of times. Sangh's Swayamsevaks are in every party, though more in the BJP because that party doesn't restrict them. The RSS engages with all governments on national issues, regardless of who is in power. But naturally, coordination is better when Swayamsevaks themselves are in government-- they are ghar ke log (family)."

On demographic imbalance, Hosabale stressed the need for a population policy to address issues arising from infiltration, religious conversions, and uneven population growth among communities. He cited conversions of Sikhs in Punjab as an area of concern. He said the situation in West Bengal remains volatile after the last elections due to political leadership, though it was not discussed in this meeting. "A border state cannot remain violent and unstable," he said. Discussing the Manipur situation, he said it was reviewed in the meeting chaired by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. "The situation is improving; the Prime Minister himself visited despite bad weather. We too want a popular government there soon," he said.

'Society has accepted RSS as an organisation'

"Society has accepted the RSS as an organisation that works for the nation's unity, security, culture and development. It cannot be banned just because some leader wishes it," Hosabale said during the RSS national executive meeting. "The RSS was banned thrice, but everyone knows what happened later," he added.

Unseasonal rains wreak havoc on farmlands...

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

UNSEASONAL rains have once again turned Gujarat's farmlands into a battlefield of despair and determination. As the skies opened up for days, drowning standing crops and washing away livelihoods, the state government moved into crisis mode.

Sensing the gravity of the calamity, CM Bhupendra Patel convened a high-level emergency meeting in Gandhinagar, directing officials to act with "full sensitivity and urgency." He assured people of every possible support from the government with swift and substantial action.

Taking the message straight to the ground, Dy CM Harsh Sanghvi was seen walking barefoot through the soaked fields, listening to the stories of farmers who watched a year's hard work wash away in days.

The meeting, attended virtually by Agriculture Minister Jitubhai Vaghani and Sanghvi, reviewed district-wise damage reports. Patel, noting that such untimely downpours hadn't struck Gujarat in two decades, ordered immediate surveys and generous compensation. The CM reiterated that the administration must work with a pro-farmer mindset, ensuring that "no farmer is left behind in this adversity."

But even as the state leadership tried to calm the storm, anger brewed on the ground.

In Trapaj village of Talaja taluka (Bhavnagar), distraught farmers gathered at the Gram Panchayat office. Submitting written demands, they urged the government to halt online crop surveys and instead transfer assistance directly to farmers' accounts.

Meanwhile, in Amreli district, protests swelled into full-blown rallies. Farmers, joined by the Khambha Kisan Sangh and Sarpanch Association, marched towards the Mamlatdar's office.

CM HOLDS MEET

1. CM convenes emergency meeting in Gandhinagar
2. Directs officials to act with "sensitivity and urgency"
3. District-wise damage reports reviewed in meet
4. Attended virtually by Deputy CM Harsh Sanghvi and Agriculture Minister Jitubhai Vaghani

... Cong targets 'corruption' in civic bodies

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

GUJARAT Congress has launched a scathing attack on the BJP government, alleging massive corruption across municipalities. From North Gujarat to Saurashtra, the party claimed that the BJP-run local bodies are mired in scams, inflated tenders, and internal revolts with even BJP members writing complaints against their own leaders.

Calling the situation "pathetic and corrupt to the core," Congress demanded action. Congress spokesperson Dr Hiren Banker dropped a dossier of evidence, asserting that "BJP's corruption is no longer an allegation it's a confession."

Test of taste: Lucknow makes it to UNESCO list of 'city of gastronomy'

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

UNESCO has included Lucknow in the list of Creative Cities Network under the 'gastronomy' category, a global recognition of the Lakhnavi platter replete with flavours of cuisine quintessential to the city's regal legacy.

The UP capital happens to be the second Indian city after Hyderabad—nominated in 2019—to make it to the coveted list. The honour holds extra significance as it comes at a time when Lucknow is celebrating 250 years as the capital city of Awadh. A statement from UNESCO said that it has included 58 new creative cities to mark the World Cities Day 2025. The announcement was made during the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference at Samarkand in Uzbekistan. The Network now has 408 cities across over 100 countries.

Besides Lucknow, eight more cities have been nominated in the 'cities of gastronomy' category. In all, 70 cities have been recognised for their cuisines.

Hailing the milestone, UP tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Under PM Narendra Modi's vision and CM Yogi Adityanath's leadership, UP has become a source of national pride. Lucknow's recognition is a testament to the city's rich culinary heritage and vibrant culture, and reflects the growing strength of the state's tourism sector."

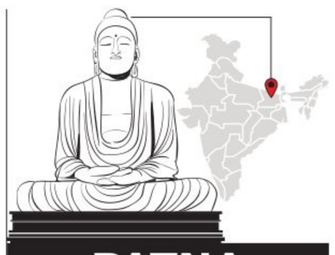
Principal secretary, tourism, Amrit Abhijat, said, "Every plate served in Lucknow tells a story — of royal kitchens, street vendors, and cultural unity. The Creative City status will strengthen global outreach, boost food-based entrepreneurship, and encourage sustainable tourism."

A GOURMET'S DELIGHT

A COVETED SPOT
2nd Lucknow is only the second Indian city after Hyderabad—nominated in 2019—to appear in the list

RISE IN FOOD TOURISM
8.274 MILLION tourists visited Lucknow in 2024
7.02 MILLION visitors in the first six months of 2025
Food has become a key driver of tourism, says Amrit Abhijat, Principal Secretary, Tourism

8 CITIES OTHER THAN LUCKNOW NOMINATED IN THE 'CITIES OF GASTRONOMY' CATEGORY, INCLUDING ZARAGOZA & SONGKHLA



PATNA DIARY

RAMASHANKAR
Our correspondent in Bihar
ramashankar@newindianexpress.com

When 26 seconds can make all the difference

With elections in the offing, even 26 seconds can make all the difference in politics. It all started with a press conference of top NDA leaders, including Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and BJP president JP Nadda, on the release of the ruling alliance's manifesto for the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls. Much to the delight of the Opposition, the press meet lasted only 26 seconds. The Opposition expectedly lapped the opportunity to launch a blistering attack on the NDA as senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot claimed that NDA leaders were scared of facing questions from journalists about their 20-year rule.

Akhilesh calls Nitish 'an election groom'

Samajwadi Party leader and former Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav mounted a scathing attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during a recent rally in Darbhanga, where he called the latter "an election groom who knows he will not retain his post after the Assembly elections". He claimed that Nitish has been seen putting garlands on others as he knows that he will not become the CM again. Akhilesh also cited similar episodes in states such as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
Appealing to voters, Yadav said, "People of Awadh have already defeated BJP. Now people of Magadh will do the same in the Bihar elections."

Rains pour cold water on campaign season

Incessant rains for three consecutive days have poured cold water on the plans of top political leaders across party lines planning to campaign in the election-bound state. At least 22 scheduled helicopter flights have been cancelled due to inclement weather and poor visibility. This has caused much embarrassment to the leaders who were supposed to canvas in the run-up to the Assembly polls. While Opposition INDIA bloc's chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav addressed a meeting virtually, Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently had to wait for hours so that his chopper could take off for Gopalganj.

40,000
Afghan refugees have left Balochistan province, a senior Pakistan official said

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	32	19	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	33	25	TDS	Moscow	28	13	SNY
Dubai	44	28	SNY	New York	26	15	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	32	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	23	13	SNY
London	20	13	SNY	Washington	26	14	SNY

Israel says 3 bodies sent from Gaza not of hostages

Truce under strain as Hamas reports more Israeli attacks in south

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL said on Saturday that three bodies it received from Gaza the night before were not hostages held in the Palestinian territory, as a Hamas security source reported fresh strikes in the south.

Despite occasional flare-ups, a fragile truce has been holding in Gaza since October 10, based on a US-brokered deal centred on the return of all Israeli hostages, both living and dead.

Israel's military told AFP that a forensic analysis revealed that three bodies it received via the Red Cross on Friday were not those of any of the deceased captives still to be handed over as part of the ceasefire deal.

Hamas's armed wing said Saturday that it had handed over bodies it had not positively identified, alleging Israel had declined its offer to provide samples for testing and "demanded the bodies for examination".

"We handed them over to preempt any enemy claims," the Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades said.

After the start of the truce, Hamas returned the 20 surviving hostages still in its custody and began the process of returning the remains of the dead. Of the 17 bodies returned since the start of the ceasefire, 15 were Israelis, one was Thai and one was Nepalese.

Hamas has also returned another unidentified body that had not been listed among the 28 missing, as well as the partial remains of a deceased Israeli hostage who had already been recovered early in the war.

Smoke billowing during an Israeli air strike on Gaza | AFP

That incident drew outrage in Israel, which said the group had violated the agreement by returning the partial remains rather than the body of another hostage.

Israel has accused Hamas of not returning the dead hostages quickly enough, but the Palestinian group says it will take time to locate remains buried in Gaza's ruins.

In its statement Saturday, the Al-Qassam Brigades called on mediators and the Red Cross to provide the "necessary equipment and personnel to work on recovering all the bodies simultaneously".

Hamas and Israel, meanwhile, have traded accusations of breaking the ceasefire.

A Hamas security source told AFP on Saturday that Israel had carried out several air strikes in the south at dawn, and that "warships opened fire toward the shores of Khan Yunis".

Earlier in the week, the Israeli military launched its deadliest night of bombing since the truce after one of its soldiers was killed in south Gaza, with the territory's civil defence agency reporting more than 100 people killed. *AFP*

China eases export ban on Nexperia chip

BEIJING

CHINA said on Saturday it will exempt some Nexperia chips from an export ban that was imposed over a row with Dutch officials and has alarmed European businesses.

Anxiety over chip shortages began when the Netherlands invoked a Cold War-era law in late September to effectively take control of Nexperia, whose parent company Wingtech is backed by the Chinese government.

China, in response, banned any re-exports of Nexperia chips to Europe and accused the United States of meddling in Dutch legal procedures to remove Nexperia's Chinese chief executives officer.

Beijing blamed what it said on Saturday was "the Dutch government's improper intervention in the internal affairs of enterprises" for leading to "the current chaos in the global supply chain".

"We will comprehensively consider the actual situation of enterprises and grant exemptions to exports that meet the criteria," a Chinese commerce ministry spokesperson said in a statement, without offering specifics. The resumption of some Nexperia shipments was part of a trade deal agreed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump after talks in South Korea on Thursday, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing unidentified sources.

Chinese and European Union officials were also to discuss Nexperia while meeting in Brussels, EU spokesman Olof Gill had said.

Those talks on Friday were "a welcome opportunity for both sides to update on... the introduction and implementation of export controls", Gill said in a statement on Saturday.

The discussions covered "controls on rare earth elements introduced or proposed by China, as well as an update on controls and developments on the EU side", he said.

The statement did not mention Nexperia specifically.

Separately, Berlin welcomed Beijing's move as a "positive sign" on Saturday.

"The latest reports from China are positive initial signs of an easing of tensions," an economy ministry spokesman said.

Nexperia produces relatively simple technologies such as diodes, voltage regulators and transistors that are nonetheless crucial as vehicles increasingly rely on electronics.

Its chips are mainly found in cars but also in a wide range of industrial components, as well as consumer and mobile electronics such as refrigerators. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Next APEC summit in Shenzhen: Xi Jinping

Beijing: China will host the next year's APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in November 2026, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced on Saturday. The 2026 summit of leaders of 21 Asian and Pacific Rim nations will be held at Shenzhen, he said while speaking at the concluding session of this year's meeting being held at Gyeongju in South Korea. Next year's summit will be China's third Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' meeting as a host. Speaking at the second session of the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting on Saturday, Xi said economies in the Asia-Pacific region should strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation.

ASIA MATTERS

'GOVTS MUST HELP WORKERS PREPARE FOR AI'

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong said governments must invest more in preparing workers for the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) rather than leaving it to the market. Speaking on 1 November, he noted that Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) economies can take the lead by reskilling and upskilling workers, redesigning jobs, and building trust in AI to avoid being caught off guard. He stressed that such efforts would ensure the benefits of AI are shared broadly, reaching not only investors but also workers and society as a whole.

HUNT ON FOR 7 LINKED TO SCAM RING

The Malaysian police have launched a nationwide manhunt for seven citizens placed on the national wanted list, as part of a widening regional crackdown on cross-border cybercrime networks identified by Singaporean authorities, *The Straits Times* reported. An all-points bulletin has been issued to alert enforcement officers across the country to track and arrest the suspects, who are wanted in both Malaysia and Singapore. Federal Police Criminal Investigation Department director M Kumar said efforts were under way to locate all seven for arrest.

ACTIVIST THREATENS TO EVICT CAMBODIANS

Tensions rose on Friday in Thailand's Sa Kaeo province after ultra-nationalist activist Veera Somkwamkid led a group demanding the removal of Cambodian settlers from what they claim is Thai territory, *The Bangkok Post* reported. The incident underscored simmering sensitivities along the Thai-Cambodian border.

MATSYAFED E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for the "Printing and Supply of Matsyafed information Guide 2026 "
E-Tender ID: 2025_MFED_817040_1
Last Dated : 06-11-2025 Tender form and conditions may be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for additional details please contact at the below address.
Sd/-
MANAGING DIRECTOR
KERALA STATE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION FOR FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (MATSYAFED) KAMALESWARAM, MANACAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM -695009
Phone: 0471-2458606, 2457172, 2457756,
Website: www.matsyafed.in
DS/838/2025/IT&PRD

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY APPELLATE TRIBUNAL, AT CHENNAI.

BETWEEN
1. M/s. Unify Labs Systems Pvt Ltd
2nd Floor, 4C Owners Court Compound, Next to Reliance fresh, Kasavarahalli, Off Sarjapura Road, Bengaluru - 560 035.
2. Mr. Srinivasa Naik Nunavathu
S/o. Sakru Naik Nanavathu, Aged about 44 years
No. 286 Rainbow Residency, Junnasandra Village, Off Sarjapura Road, Cormelram Post, Bengaluru - 560 035.
3. Mr. PallamSrikiran
S/o PallamNagabhushanam, Aged 43 years,
No.11, Rainbow Residency, Junnasandra Village,Off Sarjapur Road, Carmelram Post, Bengaluru – 560 003, ...Appellant's
And
1. Indian Overseas Bank
Sunkadakatte Branch, B-9, Janapriya Shopping Complex, No. 77/78 B, Magadi Main Road, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru – 560 022
Represented by its Authorised Officer.
2. Mr. V.V.V.Subba Rao
S/o. V.V. Krishna Rao, 245, Laughing Water, RamagondanaHalli, Varthur Main Road, Bengaluru – 560 066
3. Mrs. Prathima
W/o Sri. VVV Subba Rao, 245, Laughing Waters, Ramagondanahalli,Varthur Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 066. ...Respondent

Dear Sir,
Sub:- Notice in M.A. No.28/2025 in RA (SA)189/2018 & in M.A. No.29/2025 in RA(SA)190/2018 on the file of DRAT, Chennai.
WHEREAS the above-named petitioner has filed an application under the SARFEASI Act, challenging the Final Order dated 15.04.2025 passed by the Hon'ble DRAT, Chennai in RA(SA) 190/2018. Since R-2, Mr. V.V.V.Subba Rao & R-3, Mr. Mrs. Prathima, notice returned as "Addressee Left", the Hon'ble DRAT, Chennai directed the applicant to take Paper Publication against R2 & R3.
Hence, please take this notice to appear before the Hon'ble DRAT Chennai, on 29.10.2025, either in person or through a pleader, failing which the above matter will be decided in your absence without any further notice to you.
Srinivasan J
Counsel for the Petitioner/Appellant
Office: No.71/6, F4 – Sukhaa Apartments, Vallalar Street, Padmanabha Nagar, Choolaimedu, Chennai – 600094.
Date: 01st November, 2025

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkkavu, Thiruvananthapuram Ph: 2365678, 2365415
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. Capt/1225/2025-M1(MTL) 31.10.2025
Reputed manufacturers, authorized dealers, and qualified consultants are invited to participate in the following e-Tenders, issued under the Two-Cover Bid System:
1).Tender # 158/25-26/MTL – Appointment of Technical Consultants for Multi-media Academy- (ID #2025_CAPT_815637_1),
2).Tender # 159/25-26/MTL – Computer to Plate (CTP) Machine (ID # 2025_CAPT_815586_1)
3).Tender # 161/25-26/MTL – Baling Press Machine - (ID #2025_CAPT_781419_2)
4).Tender # 164/25-26/MTL – Hiring of 5 Colour Web Offset Printing Machine (ID # 2025_CAPT_817531_1). For detailed information log on the website: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com.
Sd/-, MD, C-apt,
Tender Inviting Authority

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD/220/25-26 Dt: 29.10.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Item of work	Approx. Value
Hiring of vehicles for	₹18,72,958.08/-

Assistant Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Hindupur (HUP) and Tiruppachetti (TPC) for 14 months
Last Date for Submission of bids: Upto 16:00 Hrs. on 20.11.2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD/ PUB/606/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Bengaluru
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR @SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
On behalf of our clients Mr. Jayaram G.S. and Smt. Reena Jayaram, both residents of Satellite Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru, it is hereby informed to the public at-large by way of this publishment that
One **VIBHA D/o BASAVARAJ**, aged about 40 years, happens to be cousin of our client Smt. Reena Jayaram. It has been brought to the knowledge of our client that the above said **VIBHA** has entered into multiple financial / loan / money transactions with multiple financial institutions / banks / private money lenders. Under the guise of being related to our client Smt. Reena Jayaram, the said **VIBHA** in all her financial / loan / money transaction documents has mentioned our clients place of residence at Bengaluru as her residential address which is highly unsought for.
The alleged bank officials / alleged recovery agents of financial institutions / alleged agents of private money lenders are abruptly showing up at the residence of our clients for alleged loan recovery and creating ruckus, hurling abuses at our clients while being at the doorsteps of our client's residence. This has now been a repeated occurrence.
My clients are getting unsolicited calls from fictitious persons alleging to be from the police department threatening our clients to repay the loan amount alleged to have been borrowed by the said **VIBHA**.
IT IS STRICTLY INFORMED TO ANYONE AND EVERONE WHOMSOEVER CONCERNED THAT OUT CLIENTS ARE NOWHERE CONNECTED TO THE ALLEGED MONEY TRANSACTIONS OF THE SAID VIBHA OR TO THE ALLEGED LOANS SAID TO HAVE BEEN BORROWED BY THE SAID VIBHA AND OUR CLIENTS ARE NOT SIGNATORIES TO ANY SUCH FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SAIDVIBHA. OUR CLIENTS ARE NEITHER THE GUARANTORS, NOR THE SURETY NOR THE WITNESSESS FOR ANY SUCH ALLEGED LOAN TRANSACTIONS OF THE SAID VIBHA. AS SUCH OUR CLIENTS ARE IN NO MANNER WHATSOEVER ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY SUCH TRANSACTIONS DONE BY THE SAID VIBHA.
By the virtue of this publishment, it is distinctly put-out in the public domain that such acts of harassment carried on by all / any persons are highly unwarranted, unlawful and detrimental to our clients and as such are exceedingly punishable under the Law of the land. It is hereby made clear to all / any persons with common intentions of causing any sort of harassment to our clients in any manner whatsoever are strictly liable to be punished under the prevailing Law and our clients are willing & entitled to take stern legal actions against all / any persons having such ulterior motive.
KIRTHI KINI, SURESH R, Advocates
DHARMAM CHARA LAW ASSOCIATES
V.V. Puram, Bengaluru. Date: 01-11-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client **Mr. SHAIK ABDUL KHUDDUS,** S/o Mr. Shaik Jahangeer Sab, proposed to enter into a sale deed in respect of the below mentioned schedule site as mentioned in schedule, with the owner **Mrs. ANITHA SAMUEL JOHN** represented by GPA holder and her mother **Mrs. ESTHER VASANTHA,** and represented that she has been absolute owner in peaceful and uninterrupted possession of the below mentioned property.
The persons having any objection or having any rights, title and interest in the schedule property may lodge objections and/or claims with the under signed along with the supporting evidence within **10 days** from the date of this publication. Any objections and/ or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and he will proceed with the proposed sale deed in respect of below mentioned properties in schedule assuming that there are no claims/ objections whatsoever from any one.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the **(BIAAPA) Approved Residential House property bearing Site No: 35,** Devanahalli Town Municipality PID No. 31-527-99, Khatha No. **530/501/35/377/2/378** situated at 3rd Division, Ward No. 20, **"Sri Sathy Sai Baba Layout"** Layout, Gokare Road, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District, measuring **East to West 12.192024 Meters (40 Ft) and North to South 9.144018 Meters (30 Ft) totally measuring 111.4836 Sq Mtrs (1200 Sq ft),** and bounded on :-
East by : Site no: 34;
West by : 30 Ft Road;
North by : Site no: 36;
South by : 40 Ft Road;
C.S. SATISH KUMAR, B.A.,LL.B.
Advocate and Consultant, 2nd Floor, Abhaya Complex, Shanthinagar South, N.H. 207.Devanahalli Town - 562110.
Email : csskadvo@hotmail.com
Mobile : 98801 22171
Place : Devanahalli Date : 02.11.2025

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Tender Notice No. 7-CWMLGDRBK-ET-2025-26, dt: 30.10.2025 PUBI1369
CWM/LGDS acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender **No. 7-CWMLGDRBK-ET-2025-26 Date: 30.10.2025 Closing date 21.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.
Tender No.: 7-CWMLGDRBK-ET-2025-26, **Description of work:** Fabrication and painting of LHB Fiat Bogie Frames including welding torch consumables at Rail Bogie Karkhana, S.C. Railway, Ydgir Distt., Karnataka State - 585221, **Qty. (Nos):** 1000, **Period:** 12 Months, **Tender Value Rs. Incl. GST:** 2,85,00,950.00 (Rupees Two Crores Eighty Five Lakhs Nine Hundred Fifty only), **EMD (₹):** 2.92.500.00, **Date of Closing:** 21.11.2025 at 11:00 hrs
Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: **Office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Carriage Workshop, Lallaguda, Secunderabad - 500017**
For further Tender Conditions / details (available in the tender documents) and for downloading of tender documents, corrigendum, please visit our website **http://www.ireps.gov.in/**
Chief Workshop Manager/CWS/ Lallaguda/ Secunderabad

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in) PUBI1370
CE/C-VI/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:
Sl. No.: 1, **NIT No:** 28-CAO-C-SC-2025 Date:28/10/2025, **Name of work:** Construction Organization: Secunderabad Division: Sanathnagar -Moula Ali Bypass line Section. Proposed construction of "Road Under Bridge" (Br.No.44-A) proposed span as 2x9.00x5.00 m (Min.5.0m clear ht) RCC Boxes at Km. 15/1-2 in lieu of existing Level Crossing No. BP-8 Special class (M) at Km.15/2-3 between Ammuguda - Moula Ali stations for Four lane carriage way for Bridge proper in civil Engineering portion., **Details:- Estimated Cost:** Rs.30,05,97,629.08, **EMD:** Rs.16,53,000.00, **Completion Period:** 18(Eighteen) Months, **Date of Opening:** 20/11/2025 15:00hrs
i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in**.
ii) Tenders can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.
iii) Tenders should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.
Chief Administrative Officer/ Const./ Secunderabad

Tender Notice No.44/2025 Dt.31.10.2025 PUBI1373
Supply of Stores Items
E-Procurement Tender Notice
The following tenders have been floated online. Tenders are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is **14.30** hrs of the due date of the tender. "For all Indigenous Offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on **www.ireps.gov.in**."

Tender No.	Brief Description
77251145B	Paint Ready Mixed Red Oxide.
31251932	Intermediate Overhauling (IOH) Replacement kit.
29255030	Set of IGBT Ballast Block for CAB-1
29255026	Set of Labyrinth ring associated components driving end &non driving end for WAP-7/WAG-9
30253593	Lower spring seat for Axle box guide Arrangement.
29255020A	Set of electronics cards for E-70 brake system of 3-phase locomotives.
66258564	Procurement of Pressure Switches and Transducers for Track Machine.
38251172	Bogie centre pivot bottom
66258546	Procurement of Seal Kits etc, for Track Machine.
66257552A	Procurement of Spares Deutz Make for Track Machines.
30253594A	High capacity thermoplastic polyester elastomer upper washer
45251028	V deep 4 Grooved Axle pulley.
42251012	High Voltage HRC Fuse of 125 Amps.1000 V AC.
45251105A	LED type Emergency light unit
66258655	Procurement of Different Valves for Track Machines.
31255013	Armature Assembly for BHEL make 4303 type High power Traction Motor.

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening
SL. No. 01 & 02 on dt.17.11.2025, SL. No. 03 & 04 on dt.19.11.2025, SL. No. 05 on dt.20.11.2025, SL. No. 06 on dt.21.11.2025, SL. No. 07 & 08 on dt.24.11.2025, SL. No. 09 & 10 on dt.25.11.2025, SL. No. 11 on dt.26.11.2025, SL. No.12 on dt.27.11.2025, SL. No. 13 on dt.28.11.2025, SL. No. 14 on dt.01.12.2025, SL. No.15 on dt.03.12.2025, SL. No.16 on dt.04.12.2025.
CORRIGENDUM
Tender Notice No.41/2025 dt. 10.10.2025 Tender No.SCR-25-CAP-TCTT due on 05.11.2025 Brieff ; Running contract for the supply of capital spares-TCTT may be read as Due date 12.11.2025 instead of existing.
Beside above mentioned Tenders There are other Tenders having **value above Rs. 50 Lakhs** for details, please visit Railway website above.
Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad A1739
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPICES RESEARCH
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Post Bag No: 1701, Marikunnu Post, Kozhikode -673 012 Ph: 0495 - 2731410
F.No.4/1033/2025-26/UHPLC/HoneyBee/Stores Dated: 27.10.2025
ICAR IISR Kozhikode invites Tender for the **"UHPLC with PDA and RI detectors"** at ICAR- Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode through GEM Portal vide GeM ID : GEM/2025/B/6771526. The closing date for the tender is 17.11.2025.
Sd/- **Head of Office** for Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the General Public, that my client, Sri.A.Ashwathnarayana S/o Appaiyanna, Residing at Kadiganahalli Village, Vidyanagara Cross, Bettahalasuru Post, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk– 562157, had entered into an Agreement of sale, with SMT.MALLAMMA W/o Sri. Subramani, SMT.SUSHILAMMA W/o Sri.Venkatarayappa, SMT.SEETHAMMA W/o Late.Malleshappa, SRI.SRINIVAS S/o Sri.Subramani and SRI.VENKATESH S/o Sri.Venkatarayappa, agreeing to purchase the Land bearing Sy.No.121/1 measuring 4 acres 02 guntas, situated at Kuduregere Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, for a total sale consideration of Rs.1,20,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakhs Only). Further, on the date of execution of the agreement of sale, and subsequent to it my client has paid a sum of Rs.26,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Only) by way of cash as well as cheques. However, due to litigation pending before the courts, they could not able to execute the sale deed and now which are all almost at the final stage. However, in view of increasing the value of the land, the above said land owners started negotiating with the third party for sale of the very same land. When it has come to the notice to my client, my client filed a suit in O.S.No.889/2025 before the Court of Senior Civil Judge and JMFC, at Devanahalli, praying for the relief of Specific performance of contract and the Hon'ble Court was please to issue suit summons and emergent notice to the above said owners by an order dated 29.07.2025. In spite of the said fact, the owners of the land have no manner of right to entered into any such illigal transactions, contrary to the terms and conditions of the agreement of sale. If any such transaction purported to have been entered into in respect of the aforesaid land, the same is illegal, void and not binding on my client, since my client already filed the original suit in respect of the aforesaid land.
Therefore, it is hereby causioned and informed to the General Public not to deal or transact with the schedule property either with the owners of the land or through the third party. If any person or persons transact the schedule property or any part therein, shall not get any valid title and they will be doing so at their own cost and risk and binding on my client.
SCHEDULE
All that the piece and parcel of the Land bearing Sy.No.121/1 measuring 4 acres 02 guntas, situated at Kuduregere Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, and bounded on: EAST BY : Government starm water drain and property belonging to Gokaradyavana, WEST BY: Property belonging to Sri.Munivenkatappa, NORTH BY : Property belonging to Bettahalasur B. Manjunatha, SOUTH BY: Property belonging to Munivenkatappa and Gokaradyavana.
M. SREENIVASA, Advocate
No.11, Jeevan Building, Kumara park, East, Bangalore – 560 001.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE No. SR-TVC0SnT(TEND)/3/2025/11
Dated: 30.10.2025
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram - 14 invites e-tenders for the following works.

Sl. No.	Tender No	Name of the work
1	TVC-SNT-SIG-25-26-28	Signalling arrangements for the Proposed Shunting Neck Extension at Thrissur Station in TVC Division

Sl. No.	Cash Value (Approx.) (₹ Ps)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Last Date for Receipt of Tender	Completion Period
1	4755526.78	95100.00	21.11.2025 up to 14.00 hrs	08 months

Complete details & tender document will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Thiruvananthapuram - 14

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(PROJECT ORGANISATON)
TENDER NOTICE

S. No	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of the Work
1	T-SG-PROJ-2025-01 Dated:31.10.2025	Provision of interlocking arrangement at 53 Nos of non interlocked gates in the MV-TJ, TJ-TVR-KIK, TVR-TTP-KKDI, NMJ-MQ NGT-VLNK, VM-PDY, VM-MV, VM-KPD, & SNDI-MTUR sections over TPJ Division
2	T-SG-PROJ-2025-02 Dated:31.10.2025	Provision of interlocking arrangement at 47 Nos of non interlocked gates in the VM-PDY, VRI-CUPJ, VM-KPD, VM-CUPJ-MV, & TJ-TVR-KIK section over TPJ Division
3	T-SG-PROJ-2025-03 Dated:31.10.2025	Provision of interlocking arrangement at 44 Nos of non interlocked gates in the DG-POY and TPJ-KKDI-MNM-RMM sections over MDU Division.
4	T-SG-PROJ-2025-04 Dated:31.10.2025	Provision of interlocking arrangement at 39 Nos of non interlocked gates in the MDU-MNM, MNM-VPT-TSI-QLN, TEN-TSI, and TEN-TCN sections over MDU Division.

Item No.	Tender value in Crores of (₹)	Bid Security (EMD) in Lakhs of (₹)	Validity Offer	Closing Date and Time	Period of Completion in Months
1	60.02	31,51,000	90 Days	02.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs	18 Months
2	54.54	28,77,200	90 Days	02.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs	18 Months
3	49.45	26,22,900	90 Days	02.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs	18 Months
4	45.26	24,13,400	90 Days	02.12.2025 at 15:00 Hrs	18 Months

i) Pre-bid conference venue, date and time for all the above tenders: At **11.00 hrs on 10.11.25 at O/o CSTE/Projects/MAS, 3rd floor, Moore Market Complex, Chennai - 03.**
ii) Sub Section Clause: Applicable for all the above 4 tenders.
Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through **(www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Signal Telecommunication Engineer / Project / I / MS

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-Tender
1. Tender Notice No. CAO-CN-MS-EPC-NL-04-2025, DATED: 28.10.2025
2. Tender Notice No. 32-CECNMS-2025-E-600987, DATED: 28.10.2025
3. Tender Notice No. 33-CECNMS-2025-E-600821, DATED: 29.10.2025
4. Tender Notice No. 34-CECNMS-2025-E-600957, DATED: 29.10.2025
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers / contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Name of the Work:
1. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for the Construction of new Railway BG line between Chainage 82.000 KM and Chainage 114.600 KM between Arani (Incl.) & Ranipet (Incl.) Stations (Reach III) and Chainage 141.500 and Chainage 170.000 between Sholinghur Town (Excl.) & Podattupet (Excl.) (Reach V) including Utility Shifting & 2 x 25 KV OHE Electrification in Proposed New BG Railway line between Tindivanam and Nagari new BG line project (FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING & ELECTRICAL WORKS) on EPC MODE

	Cash Value (Cr.,)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @ 17.00 Hrs	Pre-Bid Conference Date @ 11.30 Hrs.	Physical submission of documents before 17.00 Hrs
1	768.25	20000000	24	16.12.2025	14.11.2025	5 DAYS

Name of the Work
2. Madurai Division - VPT-TSI section - Proposed Road over Bridge of clear span 1x72.00m Bowstring Girder and Limited Use Subway in lieu of Level Crossing No. 424 at Km.559/700-800 in between Virudunagar and Sivakasi stations. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).
3. Provision of New Coaching Terminal Yard at Podanur Junction - Proposed Construction of Type-II Quarters (63 Units) & Type-III Quarters (39 units) Construction of SSE/Works & P.way office, SMR room, YM room, OHT, GLR etc. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).
4. Provision of new coaching terminal Yard at Podanur Junction - Proposed Construction of LUS, extension of PSW and Minor bridges, forming banking and cutting with side drains, retaining wall & Pit line with catwalk at Podanur (TWO PACKET SYSTEM).

	Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion (Months)	Closing Date @15.30 Hrs
2	232225752.16	1311100.00	24 Months	19.11.2025
3	249713720.94	1398600.00	12 Months	21.11.2025
4	229090380.49	1295500.00	12 Months	21.11.2025

For further details, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Chief Engineer / Construction / Egmore / Chennai - 600 008

All the news. In just a click.
Log to www.newindianexpress.com
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
/thenewindianxpress @newindianxpress +The New Indian Express
Google Play App Store

QuoteExpress
PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES
ROBERT H SCHULLER

₹5,817 CR The total value of ₹2000 notes in circulation as on October 31, showing a drop of 98.37% of notes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2000 notes was announced

Festive season, GST rate cut boost car sales to all-time high in October

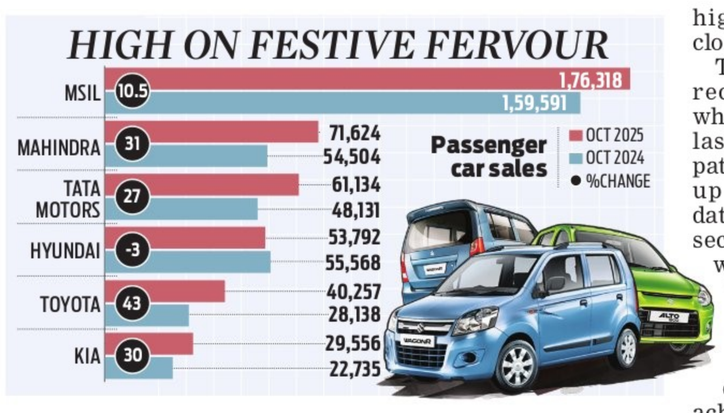
Except Hyundai Motor, most OEMs reported high double-digit growth during the month

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S passenger vehicle (PV) industry is estimated to have recorded its highest-ever monthly dispatches and retail sales in October as a reduction in GST rates during the peak festive season spurred an unprecedented surge in demand. Most original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) on Saturday reported record monthly dispatches to dealer showrooms while indicating that retail sales far exceeded wholesales.

Domestic dispatches for country's largest carmaker — Maruti Suzuki (MSIL) — grew by 10.5% year-on-year to 1,76,318 units in October.

According to MSIL's Senior Executive Officer for Marketing and Sales, Partho Banerjee, dispatches of 1,80,795 units (including LCV) are an all-time high figure for the company, beating the previous best of January when MSIL dispatched 1,77, 688 units.



"In October, we did a retail of 2,42,096 units which is a growth of 20% YoY. Our market share grew to 43.5% last month (as per Vahan data). The network stock has come down to 1.04 lakh vehicles, which is like 19 days of inventory. Our endeavour is now to supply more vehicles. For the 40-day festival period, we had 5 lakh bookings, the retail was 4.1 lakhs which is double than last year's number," said Banerjee who expects demand momentum to continue, especially in the sub-4 metre segment where the GST rate is slashed from 28% to 18%.

Mahindra & Mahindra sold 71,624 PVs in the domestic market last month, a growth of 31% YoY. According to Nalinikanth Gollagunta, CEO, Automotive Division at M&M Ltd, "In October, we achieved SUV sales of 71,624 units, a growth of 31%, which is the highest SUV sales we have clocked ever in a month!"

Tata Motors also reported record-breaking monthly wholesales and registrations last month. Its domestic dispatches stood at 61,134 units, up 27% YoY. As per Vahan data, Tata Motors secured the second spot in October 2025 with 74,705 units, retailing 7,905 units more than Mahindra and 9,660 units more than Hyundai.

The Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) achieved total monthly sales of 69,894 units in October 2025. This includes monthly domestic sales of 53,792 units and exports of 16,102 units.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) and Kia India also registered a sharp surge in October 2025 sales. Toyota Kirloskar domestic dispatches grew by 43% to 40,257 units while Kia India achieved its best-ever monthly sales performance in October with 29,556 (up 30%) units.

Rate cut effect: Oct GST mop-up shows flat growth

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE recent rate cuts have started showing their effects on Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections. Net GST collection was almost flat at ₹1.69 lakh crore in October 2025, showing a 0.6% year-on-year growth. GST rate cuts came into effect from September 22. Total gross collections went up by a meager 4.6% to ₹1.95 lakh crore against ₹1.89 lakh crore a year ago.

The deceleration in growth, which was visible from the beginning of the year, got further aggravated by GST reforms, which led to reduction in rates of over 90% of goods and services. In the April-October 2025 period, net GST collections (net of refunds) grew at 7.1% to ₹12.07 lakh crore. Gross collections during the period grew by 9% to Rs 13.89 lakh crore. The total refund in October rose by 40% year-on-year to ₹26,934 crore. Historically, GST collections have shown double-digit growth.

As per the latest data, out of the total gross collection of ₹1.95 lakh crore, CGST accounted for ₹36,547crore, SGST accounted for ₹45,134 and ₹1,06,443 crore came from Integrated GST (IGST). The gross collection from cess was ₹7,812 crore.

"The GST collections, while aligning with immediate expectations, reflect a muted momentum in September primarily due to rate rationalisation effect in the majority part of September month and the deferred consumer spending ahead of the upcoming festive season. This anticipated lag is likely to be compensated by more robust numbers in the next month," said Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner, EY India.

While the GST collection has gone down in most of the states in October on a year-on-year basis due to the rate cut, but states and union territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands witnessed double digit growth in the collection. However, analysts cautioned the collection figure may go down further in the coming months.

"GST 2.0 has also created or deepened an inverted duty structure in many sectors like packaging, farming, pharma, etc. All such taxpayers will apply for inverted duty refunds from November. As per new norms, 90% of refunds needs to be processed in seven days and hence November and December would see an increase in domestic refunds. The stabilised GST collections may be gauged post this," said Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services.

UPI hits new high with 21 bn transactions in Oct

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE festive season spending during Dussehra and Diwali driven by GST rationalisation has seen the unified payments interface (UPI) setting a new transaction milestone in October, processing a whopping 20.7-billion payments worth ₹27.28 lakh crore, its highest ever monthly volume, showed the National Payments Corporation (NPCI) data.

This marks a 3.6% month-on-month increase from 19.63-billion transactions in September, when volumes had dipped slightly from 20.1 billion in August.

It can be noted that the three-day Diwali spending saw the daily UPI payments volume soaring 30% to 737 million or ₹87,569 crore.

After the Diwali, the NPCI had said the transactions during the Dhanteras-to-Diwali period saw daily average UPI volume jumping to 736.9 million or ₹87,569 crore from 568 million or ₹75,801 crore, registering a whopping 30% in transaction count.

This also means that UPI transactions have tripled in the past four years — from 245.4 million in 2022 to 420.5 million in 2023 and further to 568.4 million in 2023 and to 736.9 million in 2025 so far, while the total transaction value has more than doubled to ₹87,569 crore up from ₹75,801 crore during this period last year.

In comparison, during the 2022 Diwali season, the value of UPI payments stood at ₹43,785 crore, which more than doubled to ₹87,569 crore this year.

Payment count grew 25% YoY

In terms of value, National Payments Corp India said UPI recorded ₹27.28 lakh crore worth of transactions in October against ₹24.9 lakh crore in September, reflecting a 9.5% rise. On a yearly basis, transaction count grew 25%, while transaction value rose 16%.

NEWSCOPE

IS AIR INDIA BECOMING TATAS' ACHILLES' HEEL?

GURBIR SINGH

THE sale of the collapsing government-owned Air India to the Tata Group on January 27, 2022 was greeted with some fanfare. Though there was grumbling at the under pricing of Air India's massive assets at just ₹18,000 crore, the Tata acquisition had popular support.

The group is known for efficiency and good consumer ethics, and there was guarded hope Air India will emerge as a good, competitive airline.

More than three years after the Tata takeover, Air India is struggling. It has not been able to shed its poor, sarkari record. Passenger services attract a litany of complaints, losses have mounted and all those promised ramp-ups in the form of new and refurbished aircraft can hardly be seen.

The crisis is evident. A Friday, October 31, report of *Bloomberg* says Air India is seeking a minimum of ₹10,000 crore in financial support from its owners Tata Sons, which owns 74.9% in the airline, and minority owner Singapore Airlines (SIA). This infusion will fund overhauling Air India's systems and services.

Though Air India's revenue increased 15% to ₹8,636 crore for the year ended 31 March, 2025, (combining revenues of Air India, Tata SIA Airlines and other subsidiaries), its losses widened by 48% to ₹10,859 crore from ₹7,356 crore in the previous year. This is significant as Air India now is among the largest contributors to the Tatas' topline.

Three years into flying Air India, and the Tatas have not been able to dent Indigo Airlines dominance. For FY2025, Interglobe Aviation, Indigo's parent company, turned in a marginally higher revenue compared to Air India of Rs.80,802 crore, but notched up a net profit of ₹7,258 crore. In market share, IndiGo is strides ahead at 64%, followed by the Air India at around 27%. In volume, the total number of passengers Air India carried declined 11% year-on-year in July and 8% YoY in August.

Strong headwinds

We have to consider headwinds in the form of external factors have been buffeting the airline. In recent days, Air India executives have been going public on why the turnaround has been proving to be difficult. A couple of days ago, speaking at a conclave, AI's chief executive Campbell Wilson said the closure of Pakistan's airspace had cost the airline ₹4,000 in extra jet fuel."We were hit by a few .... almost Black Swan events. Aside from the AI171 accident, there was the war with Pakistan, closure of Middle East airspace, 50% tariff on India by Mr Trump, and constraints on H-1B visas. All of these are quite unprecedented shocks," conceded Campbell Wilson.

But it is recovering from the tragic June 12 Dreamliner crash that killed 260 passengers that is the airline's biggest challenge. The toll it has taken on Air India is not just compensation costs, credibility and reduction in the number of international routes. The crash was not an external factor as Campbell Wilson suggests. Though the causes are still being investigated, the needle of suspicion is limited to pilot error or aircraft maintenance issues. Endemic faults in the Boeing Dreamliner is an outlier. Recovering from this blow — the loss of lives and credibility — may take years.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

Though details are still hazy, the airline seems to beset with operational stress, maintenance and training issues. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has warned AI over issues such as pilot duty timings and fatigue management. Nine show-cause notices related to five safety violations have been issued in recent months. In July itself, DGCA found 51 safety lapses involving inadequate training for pilots.

Air India is also struggling to upgrade its fleet. Stuck with fraying 67 legacy planes from the government days, the much touted $400 million refurbishment plan is going slow. The airline claims it is hampered by global supply chain issues. Overall, the airline has committed a massive $70-billion investment which includes buying 570 new aircraft from both Airbus and Boeing.

After the 2022 takeover, AI's chief Campbell Wilson had announced an ambitious five-year turnaround plan. From all the anecdotal evidence, it is clear, the airline's targets are far behind plan. After the first two year's of 'taxi' and 'take-off' phases, the third year was to be the 'climb' phase. This was to include operational break-even, fleet expansion and improving passenger experience. As we have seen all these parameters are in reverse gear.

The merger of Vistara with the flagship Air India brand in 2024 was also a logistical mistake the Tatas might have to rue. Vistara Airlines represented everything Air India is not. It was the preferred carrier of business flyers, its new aircraft, good customer service, and livery — introduced and trained by Singapore Airlines — made it a 'luxury' brand, a cut above the others. Keeping it flying as a premium airline rather than pulling it down to the Air India's level did not make business sense.

Tata Sons and minority partner Singapore Airlines, have reportedly pumped in fresh capital of ₹9,558 crore last fiscal with SIA providing the lion's share of ₹6,333 crore. This represents the largest single-year capital infusion in the history of Indian aviation. But analysts say the airline will need much more, an injection of ₹20,000-₹25,000 crore every year for the next few years.

Decades of airline collapses have proven it is a difficult business. Turning around a legacy airline carrying huge losses is a herculean task. Add to that an air disaster at the time Air India is at an inflection point, and we have an unenviable business proposition.

Pine Labs IPO opens on Nov 7; issue size cut to ₹2,080 cr

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

FINTECH unicorn Pine Labs will launch its much-awaited initial public offering (IPO) on November 7, planning to mop up ₹2,080 crore through fresh issue of shares, down from ₹2,600 crore earlier.

Similarly, the company has also lowered its secondary sale of equities through the offer from up to 8.23-crore shares from 14.78 crore shares, which would translate into around ₹1,500 crore, taking the total issue size close to ₹3,500 crore.

The company, which competes with Paytm, Razorpay, Infibeam, PayU Payments, Phonepe in the domestic market, and Adyen, Shopify and Block in the overseas markets, had got the Sebi approval on September 11, after filing the draft papers in June, in which it had eyed collecting Rs 2,600 crore from the primary issue and to raise Rs 14.78 crore from secondary offer. The final OFS size will be known when the company announces the price-band on Monday.

But, the updated filing said, as of October 31, the fresh issue is trimmed to Rs 2,080 and the OFS size is massively down to 8.23 crore from 14.78 crore or to around ₹1,500 crore, an i-banker in the know of the likely price-band told *TNIE* here Saturday, taking the overall size of the issue close to ₹3,500 crore.

Under the OFS, its external investors such as Peak XV Partners, London-based Actis, PayPal, Mastercard Asia Pacific, Temasek through Macritchie Investments, Invesco, Madison India Capital, MW Xo Digital Finance Fund, Lone Cascade, Sofina Ventures and Pine Labs cofounder Lokvir Kapoor will be divesting a part of their holding.

Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to repay debt, investment in IT assets, expenditure towards cloud infrastructure, technology development initiatives and procurement of digital checkout points, according to the latest updates, while in the September filing it had said the proceeds from the fresh issue would go for international expansion by investing in its three overseas subsidiaries. The company will use funds for investments in its subsidiaries — Qwikcilver Singapore, Pine Payment Solutions Malaysia, and Pine Labs UAE.

MoS Steel Varma meets Sweden Energy Secretary in Delhi

Union Minister of State for Steel Bhupathiraju Srinivas Varma held a meeting with Sara Modig, State Secretary to Minister for Energy, Business and Industry, Sweden, in New Delhi. Sara Modig was accompanied by Ambassador of Sweden to India, Jan Thesleff and other Swedish Officials. Minister Srinivas Varma highlighted India's growing steel sector, driven by PM Narendra Modi, with a target of achieving 300 million tonnes of crude steel production capacity by 2030. Notably, India's domestic steel demand is growing at an impressive 11-13%, fuelled by large-scale infrastructure projects, while global demand faces a slowdown.

Vigilance Awareness Week observed by Canara Bank; awareness walkathon held in Chennai

As part of the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week themed "Vigilance – Our Shared Responsibility", Canara Bank, Chennai Circle, organized an Awareness Walkathon today at Besant Nagar Beach. The event was flagged off by Saravanan, Deputy General Manager, Canara Bank, Chennai Circle Office, in the presence of Vijay Shankar, Deputy General Manager & Regional Head, Chennai North, and D. Srinivas, Deputy General Manager, Regional Head, Tambaram Regional Office. Speaking on the occasion, Saravanan emphasised that Vigilance Awareness Week is observed in honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who stood for integrity and national unity. He urged everyone to remain vigilant in all walks of life and to stand united against corruption in social, economic, and political spheres.

Business & Beyond

India Maritime Week: Shipping Corp of India organises Session on human capital

As part of India Maritime Week 2025, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways hosted a high-impact session on *Maritime Human Capital*, which was curated by the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd on October 30, 2025 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. The session focused on developing a future-ready workforce aligned with India's vision of emerging as a leading global maritime nation. The discussions highlighted how talent, technology, and transformation will drive the next phase of growth for India's maritime sector. The session was chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Labour & Employment, in presence of Sunil Paliwal, IAS, Chairman, Indian Ports Association, and Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping. The event saw participation from senior government officials, industry leaders, maritime professionals, and young cadets.

PNB organises blood donation camp as part of Vigilance Week

India's leading public sector bank Punjab National Bank organised a pan-India blood donation camp. At head office, it was organised in association with Indian Red Cross Society, as part of the ongoing Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, being observed from October 27 to November 2, on the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." This initiative was led by Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO of PNB, Executive Director D. Surendran and Chief Vigilance Officer Raghvendra Kumar. This initiative was led by Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO of PNB, Executive Director D. Surendran and Chief Vigilance Officer Raghvendra Kumar.

NABARD, CEEW join hands to advance climate-resilient agri

The NABARD today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), one of Asia's leading think-tanks, to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture, scale up green rural financing, and promote a wide spectrum of sustainable livelihoods across India's rural economy. By combining innovation, investment, and institutional capacity, NABARD and CEEW aim to create models of rural climate action that are scalable, inclusive, and transformative—helping India's farmers and small enterprises adapt to the changing climate while driving sustainable economic growth.

Iyer discharged from hospital, stable now: BCCI

India ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has been discharged from a Sydney hospital after undergoing a minor procedure following a spleen and rib cage injury. "He (Iyer) is now stable and recovering well. The BCCI Medical Team, along with specialists in Sydney and India, are pleased with his recovery, and he has been discharged from the hospital today," BCCI said.

A nation will awake on Sunday knowing that a special bunch of women have the chance to rewrite decades of history. Meet the players who are within sniffing distance of entering unchartered territory. **Gomesh S** gives the lowdown on all of them ahead of the final vs South Africa

BAND OF SISTERS

ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2025

Sneh Rana

Growing up in Sinaula (Uttarakhand), Rana did not have a state team when she started. She moved to Haryana before joining Railways. She made her India debut at 19 before falling through the cracks. After her comeback in 2021, Rana has slowly carved out a place for herself.

This WC M: **6** Runs: **99** Wkts: **7**

Arundhati Reddy

The all-rounder from Hyderabad went professional at a very young age thanks to her mother Bhagya who defied everyone around and believed in her daughter. Arundhati has had her ups and downs, shifted teams before coming to her own and delivering. Yet to play a game in this WC, she could come in for any seamer if needed.

This WC M: **NA** Runs: **NA** Wkts: **NA**

Deepti Sharma

Hailing from Agra, the quiet, all-rounder took to medium pace watching her brother Sumit before Hemalata Kala turned her towards off-spin. From thereon, there was no looking back. Deepti has been an integral part of the team for almost a decade and has been through multiple ODI WC heartbreaks.

This WC M: **8** Runs: **157** Wkts: **17**

Smriti Mandhana

Broke into the team as the quiet, bespectacled teenager from Sangli, Maharasthra. It did not take long for the batting prodigy to take the world by storm. One of the most consistent batters, she has taken her performa nces to the next level in last two years, letting the world know that she is ready.

This WC M: **8** Runs: **359** Wkts: **NA**

Harmanpreet Kaur

From Moga in Punjab, she rose to the limelight for her sixes; something that was unheard of at the time. However, her 171 not out against Australia in the 2017 WC semifinal launched her to stardom. It changed the women's game and Kaur waited for her time before taking over as skipper in 2022.

This WC M: **8** Runs: **240** Wkts: **NA**

Jemimah Rodrigues

A batting prodigy from the city of dreams, she was inspired by what Sachin Tendulkar did in 2011. Shuffled between hockey & cricket growing up, Rodrigues was always touted for big things. Inconsistency and poor selection calls meant she had to wait till 2025 for her first ODI WC.

This WC M: **8** Runs: **268** Wkts: **NA**

Shafali Verma

When she was 13, her father took her to see Sachin Tendulkar's last Ranji match in Lahli and a dream was sowed. The powerful hitter from Rohtak broke into the team two years later. However, her inconsistency and fitness cost her a place before she joined the team as a injury replacement.

This WC M: **1** Runs: **10** Wkts: **NA**

Harleen Deol

Apart from Renuka, she is also one of the products of the HPCA academy. Having moved from Chandigarh to HP at 13, she developed her cricket there. A batter known to grind it out in the middle, Deol has been India's No 3 for the last 18 months until they took a call to bring in an extra all-rounder in the semis.

This WC M: **7** Runs: **169** Wkts: **NA**

ALL PICS: ICC

This WC M: **5** Runs: **NA** Wkts: **3**

Renuka Singh Thakur

One of the earliest products of Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association's residential academy in Dharamshala, the seamer from Rohru lost her father early and it was her uncle who suggested she join the academy after seeing her bowl. Over the years, she has evolved to become one of India's mainstays.

This WC M: **2** Runs: **NA** Wkts: **4**

Radha Yadav

Much like millions who move to Mumbai with dreams, Radha's family did the same from Uttar Pradesh. Omprakash had a milk stall in Kandivali and could not afford to support her dreams. She moved schools, played for Mumbai U19 before shifting to Baroda. The left-arm spinner played in the last two games.

This WC M: **1** Runs: **NA** Wkts: **NA**

Uma Chetry

The first woman from Assam to play for India, Chetry hails from Kandulimari village in Bokakhat division of Golaghat district. Despite their financial struggles, her family encouraged Chetry to continue playing cricket and she had a steady rise within the state. In 2023, she got the India call-up and was a part of the team that won the Asiad medal in China.

This WC M: **7** Runs: **201** Wkts: **0**

Richa Ghosh

Much like Verma, another talent that broke into the team early. The keeper-batter from Kolkata came in as someone who could hit a long ball and bowl medium-pace. She has been in and out, but in this World Cup, the 22-year-old has rescued India more than once, playing her role to perfection in the lower middle-order. Has emerged as a finisher.

This WC M: **8** Runs: **1** Wkts: **13**

NR Sree Charani

Charani was a track and field athlete till her mid teens and it was not until that she took to cricket seriously. The left-arm spinner from Kadapah has made rapid strides in the last five years and her athletics background came in handy as well. Charani has always gone the extra yard and it has helped her grow in confidence. Today, the 21-year-old is India's first-choice left-arm spinner.

This WC M: **6** Runs: **134** Wkts: **6**

Amanjot Kaur

The all-rounder from Mohali went from gully cricket to pro at a young age, but she needed support from her grandmother who would watch her in the neighbourhood park. Soon, her father sacrificed a fair bit as he had to take her to training. The family financial situation wasn't great either, but the Kaur family trusted Amanjot to reach the highest levels.

This WC M: **7** Runs: **308** Wkts: **2**

Pratika Rawal

The batting-obsessed father and daughter duo from Delhi made it their mission to do everything they could for Pratika. Pradeep, the father, converted their terrace into a training facility and used to bowl 500 balls every day. When she replaced Verma, Pratika grabbed the chance with both hands.

This WC M: **7** Runs: **9** Wkts: **9**

Kranti Gaud

Youngest of six siblings in her family, the pacer from Chhatarpur, MP, struggled to play the sport early on but her brother stood by her. Slowly but steadily she rose through the ranks and the Women's Premier League opportunity with UP Warriorz gave her the limelight. Barely 22, she has had to lead the pace attack for the national team.

Two teams, one dream: Ultimate battle for the sake of women's cricket

GOMESH S @ Navi Mumbai

THE final frontier. The ultimate battle. The summit clash. Label it what you want but the World Cup final between India and South Africa is without doubt the pinnacle of women's cricket. It's also the oldest running showpiece in cricket.

For the vast majority of the 52 years, India and South Africa have had the chance to be a comma in one edition. A semi colon in some installments. But they have never been main attraction. That honour has primarily belonged to Australia or England with New Zealand crashing that duopoly once in 2000. This time? One of these proud countries finally have the chance to be a full stop, the main act. This is not an exaggeration. Sunday will be the first time a women's final will be played without at least one of Australia or England. For the first time in 25 years, a new champion will be born. Therein lies the significance of the contest between India and South Africa, two countries where the growth story for women's sport continues to rise but a victory on Sunday could see that rise take off in spectacular fashion.

The Women in Blue came close on two occasions. The first time was in 2005 before they lost to Australia in the final. It marked a historical moment as women's cricket was taken over by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) from the Women's Cricket Association of India (WCAI). When they reached the final in 2017, it marked the awakening of the women's game in India (Harmanpreet Kaur's effort to dump Australia out of the semifinal with a stellar hand also contributed). However, it did not necessarily translate into progress, at least not until the last few years. And there is still a long road to be covered. Kaur acknowledged that in the pre-match press conference. "Last time when we reached the finals, after coming back, we saw a big change in India," she said. "Women's cricket has progressed, and we saw a lot of girls on the ground. I'm sure that when we win this final, we will see many more changes and cricket will see more improvements, not only on the international level but also on the domestic level. There will be many more improvements. I think we are really looking forward to that moment where women's cricket will get more seriousness and viewership."

For their opponents on Sunday, the story hasn't been any different, but perhaps without the financial prowess of the BCCI, the significance only heightens.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Rain interruption expected

There are chances of light rains developing in the afternoon with a 50 per cent chance for showers. There might be interruptions at least in the first half of the match.

FIDE chief Dvorkovich on Naroditsky & more

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Arpora (North Goa)

IN one of Arkady Dvorkovich's first public utterances since Daniel Naroditsky's death and the subsequent microscope on Vladimir Kramnik's alleged role, the FIDE president acknowledged that 'Vladimir is a good friend and we had good relationships for many years' but 'we just all feel that it went in the wrong direction'. FIDE has already asked the former world champ for documentary proof but Kramnik has yet to provide them with any. In an interaction on Day 1 of the World Cup, the former Russian politician also spoke about India's growing influence in the world of chess. Excerpts:

● On FIDE's recent relations with India

The real jump was when Chennai hosted the Olympiad in 2022. That's when we started building close ties with the All India Chess Federation (AICF), federal government and the local governments. We do believe that such a big country and a chess powerhouse like India should be able to host one major event per year, that's normal. Of course, we were happy to see a new generation of players coming to the stage and competing for top positions.

● On Naroditsky's death and FIDE's probe

We all at FIDE are really sorry about Daniel's death. He was really a personality that influenced the chess world in a positive manner by being a great player, commentator and educator. For me, it's personal. On the other side, it's also an institutional issue. We all understood that he was affected by hints, sometimes aggressive hints, related to potential cheating. Even if those weren't direct accusations, he felt like those were real accusations against him and some other players, like David Navara. At the moment, it's in the hands of the Investigation and Ethics Commission. I cannot pre-empt the findings. I'm not accusing anyone at this point. Having said that, I need to mention that I tried to persuade Vladimir Kramnik informally that he should be less aggressive before but not after what had happened since I felt that's a bit too much. I also asked him to provide the full methodology that he's using to bring his hints or accusations. I mean a clear scientific foundation for the statistics and we didn't receive it. We know for sure that Daniel was affected.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Bopanna calls time on playing career

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

INDIAN tennis veteran Rohan Bopanna, one among the only four Indians to win Grand Slam titles, on Saturday announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an end to a career spanning more than two decades on the challenging ATP Tour. The 45-year-old Bopanna's final appearance on the Tour came at the Paris Masters, where he partnered Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik, losing in the opening round earlier this week.

In an emotional statement titled "A Goodbye' But Not The End," Bopanna said he was "officially hanging up racquet," reflecting on a journey that took him from his hometown of Coorg to the biggest arenas in world tennis. "How do you bid farewell to something that gave your life its meaning? After 20 unforgettable years on tour, however, it's time.. "Starting my journey from a small town of Coorg in India, chopping blocks of wood to strengthen my serve, jogging through coffee estates to build stamina and chasing dreams on cracked courts to standing under the lights of the biggest arenas in the world — it all feels surreal," Bopanna wrote. Bopanna had ended his India career after the Paris Olympics last year.

Janice to take on Kimberly in final of Chennai Open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

JANICE Tjen of Indonesia kept up her happy run to march into the singles final of the Chennai Open on Saturday.

The World No 82, who's the No 4 seed in the WTA 250 meet, had to dig deep to get over the line in her latest outing. Facing Lanlana Tararudee of Thailand, Janice won 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5) in a gruelling battle that lasted 2 hours and 24 minutes. Janice will face seventh seed Kimberly Birrell of Australia, who pulled off a fighting win over Chinese Taipei's Joanna Garland in the other semifinals. Kimberly, who's World No 117, won 6-7 (2), 6-3, 7-5 in a marathon match that lasted 3 hours and 24 minutes.

RANJI ROUND-UP

Karun shines with another ton for K'taka

ENS/AGENCIES @ Thiruvananthapuram

KARUN Nair marked his return to his home state Karnataka with back-to-back tons helping them reach 319/3 at stumps with an unbeaten 142 against Kerala in a Elite - Group B fixture in the Ranji Trophy on Saturday.

Smaran R, who has been on a dry run, finally got his season running, scoring 88 runs. He remained unbeaten.

Sangwan misses out on 100

NEW DELHI: Sanat Sangwan missed out on a century, as hosts Delhi posted 248/6 against Pondicherry in a Elite-Group D match. Meanwhile, IPL star Priyansh Arya marked his first-class debut with a 40-run knock. Abin Mathew scalped three wickets for the visitors.

Delhi batter Sanat Sangwan in action in the Ranji Trophy | SAYANTAN GHOSH

SELECT MATCHES: Group D: Delhi 248/6 in 80 ovs (S Sangwan 99; A Mathew 3/47) vs Pondicherry; HP 293/7 in 90 ovs (AP Vashisht 114 batting) vs Hyderabad; **Group A:** TN 252/4 in 88 ovs (P Ranjan Paul 113, B Indrajith 94 batting) vs Vidarbha; Andhra 222/3 in 68 ovs (S Bharat 93) vs Odisha; **Group B:** Karnataka 319/3 in 90 ovs (K Nair 142 batting, Smaran R 88 batting) vs Kerala.

Another century for Pradosh

COIMBATORE: Pradosh Ranjan Paul registered another century this season as Tamil Nadu posted 252/4 on the board on Day 1 against defending champions Vidarbha in an Elite - Group A fixture. Earlier, the hosts were at 18 for 2, with in-form opener Vimal Kumar (2) and Athish SR (3) dismissed cheaply.

Vashisht rescues HP

AMTAR: AP Vashisht's ton helped Himachal Pradesh post a creditable total of 293/7, after a early setback against Hyderabad in another Elite-Group D fixture. For Hyderabad, Rohit Rayudu (3/51) and Tanay Thygarajan (2/77) scalped important wickets.

Bharat, Reddy notch fifties

CUTTACK: Srikar Bharat and Abhishek Reddy scored important fifties as Andhra Pradesh gain control on Day 1 scoring 222 runs against Odisha in another Elite Group A match.

EXPRESS READ

Pant's gritty fifty keeps India A in contention

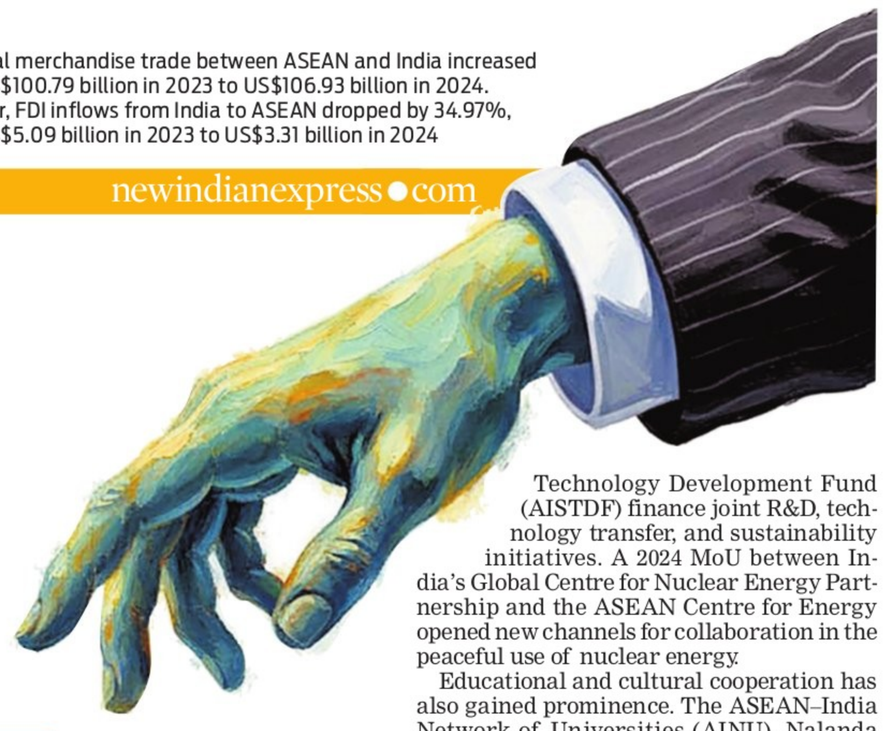
BENGALURU: Skipper Rishabh Pant's unbeaten 64 held India A together, taking them to 119/4 against South Africa A on the penultimate day of the four-day match here. India still need 166 runs to scale down the target of 275, after South Africa, overnight 30 for no loss, were bundled out for 199 in their second innings.

Arsenal extend lead, Manchester United held

LONDON: Arsenal beat Burnley 2-0 to extend their lead in the Premier League on Saturday. Viktor Gyokeres and Declan Rice scored. Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest. **Results:** Fulham 3-0 Wolves; Burnley 0-2 Arsenal; Brighton 3-0 Leeds; Forest 2-2 Man United; Palace 2-0 Brentford.

The total merchandise trade between ASEAN and India increased from US$100.79 billion in 2023 to US$106.93 billion in 2024. However, FDI inflows from India to ASEAN dropped by 34.97%, from US$5.09 billion in 2023 to US$3.31 billion in 2024

INDIA–ASEAN RELATIONS
A PARTNERSHIP FOR INDO-PACIFIC FUTURE



JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE 22nd ASEAN–India Summit held in October signified a new milestone in one of India's most dynamic regional relationships. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attending his 12th ASEAN–India Summit, (this time virtually) joined leaders of the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including Timor Leste, the bloc's newest member, to review progress under the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and set directions for future cooperation.

India's engagement with ASEAN, anchored in ancient civilizational, cultural, and commercial linkages, has evolved into a comprehensive and strategic partnership that can shape the Indo-Pacific order. What began as a modest dialogue in 1992 has, over three decades, matured into a relationship that places ASEAN's centrality in India's Act East Policy and its vision of a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

From dialogue to comprehensive strategic partnership

India's formal engagement with ASEAN began in 1992 as a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership, signalling the country's renewed outreach to Southeast Asia after years of limited contact during the Cold War. Three years later, in 1995, the partnership was elevated to a full Dialogue Partnership, paving the way for regular ministerial-level exchanges.

A decisive turning point came in 2002, when the first ASEAN–India Summit was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, institutionalising annual leader-level meetings. In 2012, the relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership, marking two decades of sustained engagement. Six years later, in 2018, the focus expanded to maritime cooperation, aligning India's Act East Policy with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). The partnership reached its highest level in 2022, with the establishment of a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). India also consolidated its institutional engagement by opening a dedicated mission to ASEAN in Jakarta in 2015.

Political and security cooperation: Anchoring stability in the Indo-Pacific

Political and security ties between India and ASEAN have grown steadily, driven by shared interests in peace, maritime security, and counterterrorism. India's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in 2003 reaffirmed its commitment to ASEAN's foundational principles of non-interference, peaceful coexistence, and mutual respect.

India has since emerged as an active participant in ASEAN-led platforms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). It currently co-chairs the ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Counterterrorism (2024–2027) with Malaysia. At this year's summit, Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's continuing support for ASEAN centrality and unity, stressing the importance of collective action on issues such as maritime domain awareness, disaster relief, and the freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.

India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) complements the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), with both frameworks converging on themes like maritime ecology, connectivity, and sustainable resource management. Countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand are already key partners in these efforts, reinforcing a shared vision of an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

Economic engagement

Economic relations form the backbone of ASEAN–India cooperation. The ASEAN–India Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation, signed in 2003, laid the foundation for deeper integration through the ASEAN–India Free Trade Area (AIFTA). This was followed by the Trade in Goods Agreement (2009) and the Trade in Services and Investment Agreements (2014), collectively aimed at liberalising trade and facilitating investment flows.

By 2024, ASEAN–India merchandise trade had climbed to US$106.9 billion, making India ASEAN's sixth-largest trading partner. However, the trade balance continues to favour ASEAN, largely due to goods re-routed from third countries, particularly China, under lenient "rules of origin".

Recognising these distortions, both sides have begun a comprehensive review of the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). India's objectives are to tighten rules of origin to prevent third-country dumping, dismantle non-tariff barriers, and create more balanced tariff structures.

Connectivity

Connectivity remains a critical but challenging pillar of ASEAN–India relations. It lies at the heart of India's Act East Policy, which envisions transforming the Northeast into a gateway to Southeast Asia. Yet, political instability in Myanmar and logistical hurdles continue to delay flagship infrastructure projects.

Two landmark initiatives showcase both the ambition and the difficulty of the connectivity agenda. The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMT Highway), connecting Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar, aims to create a seamless overland corridor linking South and Southeast Asia. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, linking Kolkata Port to Mizoram via Sittwe Port in Myanmar, combines sea, river, and road transport to facilitate trade access. Once operational, these projects will dramatically reduce transit times, open new economic corridors, and integrate India's northeast into ASEAN's regional value chains. Plans to extend these routes to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam under the proposed Mekong–India Economic Corridor further underscore their strategic significance. In parallel, digital and maritime connectivity are gaining momentum. The ASEAN–India Fund for Digital Future, launched in 2024, is supporting cooperation in Digital Public Infrastructure, cybersecurity, and ICT capacity-building essential for connecting the region's fast-growing digital economies.

Maritime cooperation

The maritime domain is the natural bridge linking India and ASEAN. Recognising its strategic and economic importance, 2026 has been designated the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

At the 2025 Summit, India announced several initiatives to advance this agenda, including the Second ASEAN–India Defence Ministers' Meeting, the Second ASEAN–India Maritime Exercise, and the creation of a Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Nalanda University. India will also host the East Asia Summit Maritime Heritage Festival at Lothal, Gujarat, celebrating the shared seafaring traditions of the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine aligns closely with ASEAN's maritime priorities under the AOIP. Both sides emphasise freedom of navigation, sustainable resource use, and disaster preparedness. India's track record as a "First Responder" in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)--whether in natural disasters or health crises--has enhanced its reputation as a reliable regional partner.

From energy to education

Beyond trade and security, ASEAN–India collaboration extends to energy, innovation, education, and culture. India supports ASEAN's Power Grid Initiative and has pledged to train 400 renewable energy professionals. Mechanisms such as the ASEAN–India Green Fund (AIGF) and Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) finance joint R&D, technology transfer, and sustainability initiatives. A 2024 MoU between India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership and the ASEAN Centre for Energy opened new channels for collaboration in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Educational and cultural cooperation has also gained prominence. The ASEAN–India Network of Universities (AINU), Nalanda University fellowships, and scholarships for students from CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam) foster academic mobility and skill development. Cultural diplomacy thrives through initiatives like the ASEAN–India Music Festival, Youth Summit, Artists' Camp, and Delhi Dialogue, which celebrate shared traditions of art, religion, and architecture.

Building soft power bridges

Tourism has become a powerful connector between India and ASEAN. Visitor arrivals from India to ASEAN surged to 5.88 million in 2024, up from 4.29 million in 2023. Building on this growth, 2025 has been designated the ASEAN–India Year of Tourism, supported by a US$5 million fund for joint marketing campaigns, cruise dialogues, and professional exchanges.

At the 2025 Summit, leaders adopted the ASEAN–India Joint Statement on Sustainable Tourism, aligning with Malaysia's chairmanship theme of "Inclusivity and Sustainability." This focus on responsible and sustainable travel underscores both regions' commitment to balancing economic growth with ecological preservation.

Challenges ahead

Despite significant progress, the ASEAN–India partnership faces persistent challenges. Connectivity projects are hampered by delays and security concerns in Myanmar. Trade imbalances continue to test economic trust, while geopolitical tensions in the South China Sea strain ASEAN unity at times.

Yet, the overall trajectory remains positive. The alignment between India's Act East Policy and ASEAN's Community Vision 2045 is reinforced by India's Vision 2047, which envisions a $30-trillion economy deeply integrated with regional supply chains. The newly adopted Plan of Action for the ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026–2030) provides a roadmap centred on digital transformation, sustainable development, maritime security, innovation, and people-centered growth.

A shared Indo-Pacific destiny

Three decades of sustained engagement have transformed an ancient civilizational connection into a modern strategic partnership. From the diplomatic corridors of Jakarta to the cultural legacy of Nalanda, ASEAN–India relations have evolved into a model of South–Southeast Asian cooperation. The declaration of 2026 as the Year of Maritime Cooperation and the adoption of the Plan of Action (2026–2030) affirm a shared conviction: that India and ASEAN's destinies are intertwined by geography, by history, and by a common Indo-Pacific future built on inclusivity, prosperity, and peace.

COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The India-ASEAN joint leaders' statement resolved to promote sustainable tourism in the region, guided by green, blue and circular economy principles that are pro-planet and nature-positive. They also resolved to support the conservation of cultural heritage, promote resource efficiency, bio-diversity protection, and share best practices for inclusive and resilient tourism development. Both sides also agreed to share information on investment opportunities and encourage mutual investment in low-carbon and resource-efficient infrastructure. They resolved to maximise the contribution of tourism benefits to the economic prosperity of the locals, which includes youth, women, and tourism providers by involving them in tourism promotion

DELHI'S EXPERIMENT WITH CLOUD SEEDING

ANUP VERMA @ New Delhi

ARTIFICIAL rain is an idea that has found political currency in the national capital region to scrub the air of hazardous pollutants. Employed as a costly drought relief measure since the 1950s across the country to address human distress, Delhi-NCR tried it out to reduce atmospheric pollution. However, three back-to-back attempts to make the skies open up in Delhi's outskirts by coaxing sparse clouds failed.

The Delhi government and the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur had teamed up to produce artificial rain using IIT-K's aircraft. However, quick fix solutions without addressing the underlying causes of pollution often fail to deliver relief.

Stages of seeding

At the heart of the concept of artificial rain is a process called cloud seeding. It is a technique of weather modification, which catalyses the natural process of cloud precipitation. The most important condition for its success is that the target clouds must hold sufficient levels of moisture. These clouds are injected with chemical particles, which act as a kind of seed around which water droplets and ice crystals can form. These formations are called the nuclei.

Once a sufficient volume of droplets or ice crystals forms inside a cloud, they start growing and combine to become heavy enough to fall as rain or snow. Inducing the cloud to dump the water that it might otherwise carry away or hold back is part of the process.

Scientists begin by making cloud and moisture assessment in the region where artificial rain is desired. Apart from the presence of clouds and moisture in them, parameters like proper height, atmospheric temperature and density of clouds come into play before the seeding target is selected.

As for the seeding agents, they include chemical substances such as silver iodide, solid carbon dioxide or dry ice, salt particles or sodium chloride, rock salt and iodised salt. These materials help create the nuclei for condensation or freezing. These seeding agents are then released into the clouds by aircraft, rockets, or ground-based generators, each one of which has cost implications. For Delhi, the IIT-Kanpur team decided to use a modified aircraft to carry flares that burned the chemicals at a particular altitude.

There are two types of seeding, hygroscopic seeding (using salts) at the base of warm clouds; and glaciogenic seeding (using silver iodide particles) in cold clouds. IIT-Kanpur attempted glaciogenic seeding in Delhi.

The case of Delhi

For decades, the NCR and its adjoining areas have been reeling under humongous air pollution. It attains life-threatening levels during the winter when winds drop, temperature inversion traps pollutants, stubble-burning in neighbouring states adds to smoke, and dust gets stirred up from construction sites. Vehicular emissions add to the noxious cocktail.

As a counter-measure, the Delhi government sought to experiment with artificial rain. It hoped that artificial rain, even for a short time, could help wash away some of the fine particulate matter, like PM2.5 and PM10, from the air, improve visibility, and give some relief from high pollution.

Experts believe that for a city like Delhi, even if a little rain can be induced to help wash away particulate matter, it can contribute to public health, visibility and overall ease of living. Globally, cloud seeding has been attempted in several countries, like the US, China, and UAE, mostly for enhancing rainfall, snowpack, controlling hail, clearing fog, etc., and the Delhi government wants to build on this theme.

The government signed a memorandum of understanding with IIT-Kanpur to carry out several — initially five, possibly up to nine — experimental cloud-seeding flights. It sanctioned ₹3.21 crore for the initial phase of up to five trials. Each aircraft sortie carried out so far lasted 90 minutes, covering roughly 100 sq km in and around Delhi, using a modified Cessna 206H that carried flare-type seeding equipment. The target areas were mainly in the northwest and outer Delhi and Noida.

The experiment

The IIT-Kanpur team chose the day of operation when the meteorological data showed favourable cloud movement over Delhi and sufficient moisture concentration, and dropped seeding chemicals into the clouds. The expectation was that rainfall could begin within 15 minutes to four hours after seeding, but there was not even a drop.

NOT A HEALTH HAZARD: IIT-K

The IIT-K chief dispelled fears on silver iodide triggering an environmental or health hazard, saying less that 10 gm is used over 1 sq km. That's too little for any harmful effect on humans, animals or vegetation, he said

Scientists believe the key reason for the failure was low moisture content in the targeted clouds. The IIT-Kanpur team noted humidity levels as low as 10-15% in the seeded clouds, well below what is generally considered favourable for the success of such an exercise.

Another IIT-Delhi report analysed data from 2011 to 2021 to conclude that Delhi's winter is climatologically unsuitable for consistent cloud seeding due to a fundamental lack of sufficient moisture and saturation, particularly during the peak pollution months of December and January. It found December-January coinciding with both the most severe pollution episodes and the driest climatological conditions.

Western Disturbance

While Western Disturbances (WDs) are the primary drivers of potential seeding conditions, viable windows of opportunity are rare, confined to specific anomalous events. Even on days identified as potentially promising (e.g., cloudy WD days without rain), a multi-criteria Moisture Suitability Index (MSI) indicated they frequently lack the necessary combination of moisture depth, saturation and atmospheric lift required for successful seeding, the report said.

Even if successful, "induced rainfall would likely provide only a brief respite (typically one to three days) before pollution levels rebound, the report said. Given the high operational costs, the scientific uncertainties inherent in aerosol-laden environments, and the absence of any moderation in underlying emission sources, cloud seeding cannot be recommended as a primary or strategic measure for Delhi's pollution management, the authors argued.

Coming back to the recent experiment, despite there being no significant rain, some reduction in the levels of particulate matter was observed in Delhi's trial zones. For example, before seeding, PM2.5 levels were 221, 230, and 229 micrograms per cubic metre in areas like Mayur Vihar, Karol Bagh, and Burari in Delhi, respectively. Post-seeding, they dropped to 207, 206, and 203. Similar small drops for PM10 were noted. Experts, however, say that since rainfall did not take place, the decline in the levels of particulate matter or pollution in general may have been caused by other factors, like wind settling and timing of measurement.

Learning curve

For his part, IIT-Kanpur Director Manindra Agrawal said though the cloud seeding trials did not produce rain, they provided valuable data and scientific insights for future operations. "It helped us understand the relationship between the amount of seeding material used, the moisture content of clouds, and their ground-level impact. This will help us fine-tune future operations," he said.

"We need at least 30 to 50% cloud moisture. Since that was not available, we decided to wait until conditions improve," he said, adding the trials will resume once the situation improves.